STARTLING 'N SHOCKING tales

WEIRD

A FRIGHTORAMA

SEPT. 1980

$1.95

AN EXPLOSION OF LOATHSOME HORROR

SCREAMS DIE, AS SHARP FANGS SINK INTO RAW FLESH

CLAWS of HORROR

THE FLESH DRIPPING THING ROSE FROM

BEYOND EVIL

The BLOODY HEAD

PLUS

THE WEREWOLF • TERROR ASTEROID AND MORE

WEIRD

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VOL. 13 NO. 3

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IN A MOMENT OF RECKLESS IMPULSE, MADDENED, FORSAKEN PETER ERLU IMPLORED SATAN TO AID HIM! AND SATAN COMPLIED WITH VIOLENT RAPIDITY AS HE PRESENTED ERLU WITH...
SATAN'S BLOODY PEARLS
MARCHIONNE

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT FROM THE CHEAPEST SEAT IN THE BALLET THEATRE, PETER ERLU LOOK ON INTENTLY!
SHE IS MAGNIFICENT! IT IS A SHAME THAT GIGI STARLEAU IS ONLY THE NUMBER 3 BALLERINA! SHE SHOULD BE THE FIRST!
I MUST MAKE HER MINE! SHE MUST KNOW HOW PETER ERLU FEELS ABOUT HER! BUT HOW! I AM SO SHABBY!
EXIT
THE STRANGE OBSESSED LITTLE MAN WATCHES EVERY PERFORMANCE, AND AFTER EACH, WHEN THE GLITTERING CROWD HAS DISPERSED...
SHE IS BEAUTIFUL! SHE MUST BE THE FIRST BALLERINA! NOTHING MUST STAND IN HER WAY! NOTHING!
BALLET
GIGI STARLEAU
APPEARING IN
RETURNING TO HIS SQUALID ROOM, ERLU'S FERVOR MOUNTS TO FEVER PITCH!
NORMA RODENNE AND ELLEN GAR! THEY STAND IN HER WAY! THEY ARE RANK NOVICES COMPARED TO MY GIGI! DEATH TO THEM!
TUM!
BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE! I NEED HELP-- FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF! IF YOU HEAR ME, SATAN!
I... I WAS JUST...
I KNOW, PETER ERLU! I HEARD! AND I'M HERE TO ANSWER YOUR PLEA!
A... A NECKLACE!
TAKE IT AND PRESENT IT TO GIGI STARLEAU'S RIVALS!

A NECKLACE FOR ELLEN GAR! AND FROM THE DEVIL HIMSELF! HEE-HEEEE!
THE NEXT MORNING IN THE LAVISH APARTMENT OF PRIMA BALLERINA ELLEN GAR!
STRANGE! I DIDN'T SEE THIS DELIVERED! FROM A BASHFUL ADMIRER, NO DOUBT! I'LL TRY IT ON!
THE BEAUTIFUL DANCER PLACES THE FATEFUL NECKLACE ABOUT HER NECK UNAWARE OF ITS SINISTER ORIGIN OR PURPOSE!
HOW LOVELY! IT'S... IT'S... (GASP) I'M CHOKING... IT'S STRANGLING ME... (GASP)... AIEEE!
AGGG-RRRR-AAA...
HEE-HEE! SPLENDID! ONE LESS OBSTACLE IN GIGI'S PATH TO FAME!
WELL DONE, MY NECKLACE! NOW FOR NORMA RODENNE! HA-HA!
NEWS OF ELLEN GAR'S DEATH SHAKES THE ENTIRE BALLET COMPANY TO IT'S FOUNDATIONS! AND AS NORMA RODENNE, NUMBER TWO BALLERINA, PREPARES TO ASSUME THE PRIMA DIVA'S ROLE...
GOOD LUCK, NORMA! YOU'RE NUMBER ONE NOW! AND GIGI IS SECOND!
THANK YOU, SIR! I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE!

AND AS NORMA RODENNE PREPARES TO GO ON!
PACKAGE FOR YOU, MISS NORMA! SOME PEARLS! DON'T KNOW WHO THEY'RE FROM!
PEARLS! FROM AN ANONYMOUS FAN, PERHAPS! I'LL WEAR THEM NOW!

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL AND I... (GASP) THEY'RE... I CAN'T BREATHE...
THEY'RE...(GASP) ..STRANGLING ME ...! (GASP) AGGRRRAA!

AND NORMA RODENNE'S FINAL PERFORMANCE IS WITNESSED BY A FIEND-ISH UNSEEN OBSERVER!
HEE-HEE! SUCCESS! DEAD AT LAST! AND GIGI IS THE FIRST BALLERINA!

THE NEXT DAY...
NOW TO TELL HER THE NEWS! THAT I, PETER ERLU HAVE MADE HER A STAR!
BALLET
STARRING
GIGI
STARLEAU

EXULTANT OVER HIS TRIUMPH, THE DIABOLICAL PETER ERLU FLOUNGES CONFIDENTLY INTO GIGI STARLEAU'S DRESSING ROOM AND NO LONGER HESITANT, BRAGS THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER STARDOM!
WHY YOU RIDICULOUS LITTLE MAN! SURELY YOU AREN'T SERIOUS!

SHOCKED AT THIS UNANTICIPATED REJECTION, ERLU SEETHES WITH HATRED FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR WHOM HE HAD KILLED!
HA-HA-HA! GO AWAY, LITTLE MAN BEFORE I HAVE YOU THROWN OUT!
SERIOUS! OF COURSE I'M SERIOUS!
AND HIS FIENDISH BRAIN SEEKS ITS REVENGE!
ALL RIGHT! SO YOU DON'T WANT ME! BUT TAKE THIS PEARL NECKLACE WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!
A NECKLACE!
THEY ARE RATHER NICE, AREN'T THEY? I'LL TRY THEM ON!
HE-HE-HEH! REJECT ME... THE NECKLACE WILL WORK ON HER AS ON THE OTHERS!
DO YOU LIKE THEM, PETER ERLU? HA-HA!
HA-HA-HA!
RAAAGGGHHH
AND SO LIKE COUNTLESS OTHERS BEFORE HIM, PETER ERLU FAILED TO REALIZE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE, THAT THE DEVIL IS TOO GREAT AN EVIL FORCE TO BE EMBODIED IN ONE INDIVIDUAL ALONE: AND THAT THOSE WHO DEAL WITH IT ARE PAID IN HIDEOUS DEATH!
THE END

CLAWS of HORROR

SHE GOT WHAT SHE WANTED... BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE PRICE SHE'D HAVE TO PAY... FOR BELOW HER, IN THE THICK SLIME OF A STRANGE UNDERSEA WORLD, THEY LURKED... WATCHING AND WAITING FOR HER.

MAYBE, SON, BUT I FEEL THAT YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! BEFORE I BID YOU FAREWELL THERE IS A SECRET I MUST IMPART TO YOU. BELOW THE CELLAR IS A SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGE THAT LEADS TO THE SEA...

...AT HIGH TIDE IT IS FLOODED. BUT AT LOW TIDE IT LEADS TO THE VERY MOUTH OF THE WATERS! THERE YOU WILL FIND STRANGE AND RICH TREASURES... AS MUCH AS YOU WANT! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO.

ALL THAT NIGHT, YOUNG DONALD SAT AT HIS FATHER'S DOOR...
THEY WON'T GET HIM...THEY WON'T!

HOWEVER, TOWARD MORNING, HE MOMENTARILY FELL ASLEEP AND WHEN HE AWOKE...
HE... HE'S GONE! THEY... THEY CAN'T HAVE TAKEN HIM FAR! I... I'VE ONLY BEEN ASLEEP A MINUTE!

--TRACKS! FOOT PRINTS OF STRANGE BEASTS! --THAT SLIME AND SEAWEED! WH-WHAT ARE THEY? WH-WHERE HAVE THEY TAKEN HIM?

DONALD FOLLOWED THE TRACKS... THROUGH THE HOUSE, DOWN THE CELLAR, AND FINALLY...
THEY... THEY LEAD TO THE VERY PASSAGEWAY DAD TOLD ME ABOUT... MAYBE I'M NOT TOO LATE!

SUDDENLY
THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES! THEY'RE CARRYING DAD INTO THE SEA! WHY?
DONALD! GO BACK.. GO BACK!

LET HIM GO! LET HIM GO!

AS THE TERRIBLE CLAWLIKE HAND GRIPPED HIM YOUNG DONDER FAINTED!
HIS CLAW.. LIKE COLD STEEL I I I AAAAH

AND WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS
DAD! HELP! --HELP!!

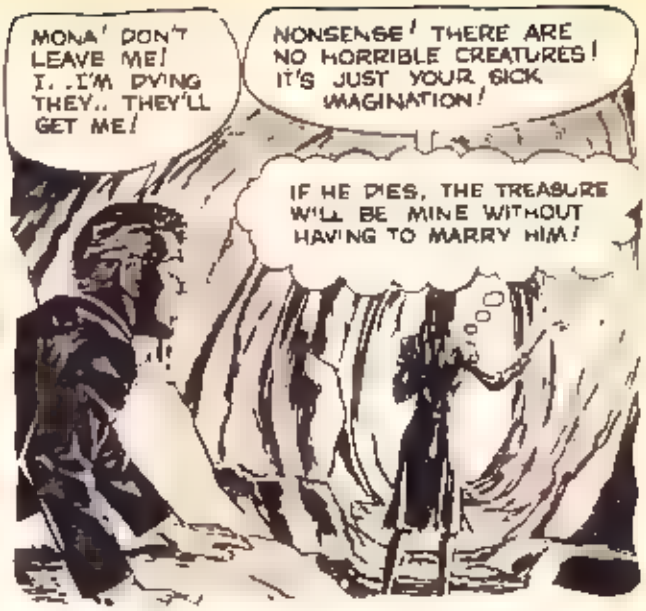
HIS TERROR CHARGED VOICE ECHOED THROUGH THE PASSAGEWAY, AND
MASTER DONALD! WHAT IS IT?
THEY THEY TOOK HIM HORRIBLE CREATURES TOOK DAD BELOW THE SEA

IT MUST BE TRUE! WHAT STRANGE AND TERRIBLE CURSE HANGS OVER THIS HOUSE?
TAKE ME AWAY! I NEVER WANT TO SEE DONDER MANOR AGAIN!

DONALD GRADUALLY RECOVERED, AND FOR TWO YEARS DONDER MANOR AND ITS GRIM SECRETS WERE CLOSED

AND THEN DONALD FELL IN LOVE. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL BUT, SHREWD AND CALCULATING...
PLEASE MONA WON'T YOU MARRY ME?
I'M PERFECTLY WILLING BUT I HAVE EXPENSIVE TASTES. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO BUY ME WHATEVER I WANT!
AND IF I GET MONEY LOTS OF IT... YOU WILL?
OF COURSE DARLING.
I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU BEFORE BECAUSE I I WAS AFRAID TO. THERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TREASURE BENEATH MY ANCESTRAL HOME BUT THERE ARE THINGS THERE
OLD WIVES TALES. I'LL GO WITH YOU AND SHOW YOU THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
SOME TIME LATER...
IT... IT WAS HERE THAT I SAW THEM!
THE FOOL! HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND! IF IT WASN'T FOR FINDING A TREASURE, I'D NEVER HAVE COME WITH HIM!
LOOK! THE TREASURE! JUST AS MY FATHER TOLD ME!
A... A FORTUNE IN GEMS AND GOLD! IF ONLY I COULD HAVE IT FOR MYSELF WITHOUT BEING TIED TO THAT WEAK-WITTED, FOOL THE REST OF MY LIFE!
HERE, MONA... ALL OF IT FOR YOU! YOU... YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PROMISE?
YES! YES! OF COURSE!
SUDDENLY...
AGGHH!

NEVER MIND THE TREASURE! MY HEAD ... HELP ME!
HAVE TO PICK THEM UP BEFORE THE TIDE FLOODS THE PASSAGE WAY!


MONA! DON'T LEAVE ME! I...I'M DYING THEY... THEY'LL GET ME!
NONSENSE! THERE ARE NO HORRIBLE CREATURES! IT'S JUST YOUR SICK IMAGINATION!
IF HE DIES, THE TREASURE WILL BE MINE WITHOUT HAVING TO MARRY HIM!

MOMENTS LATER
THEY... THEY'VE COME FOR ME AS THEY'VE ALWAYS COME FOR THE DONDERS!

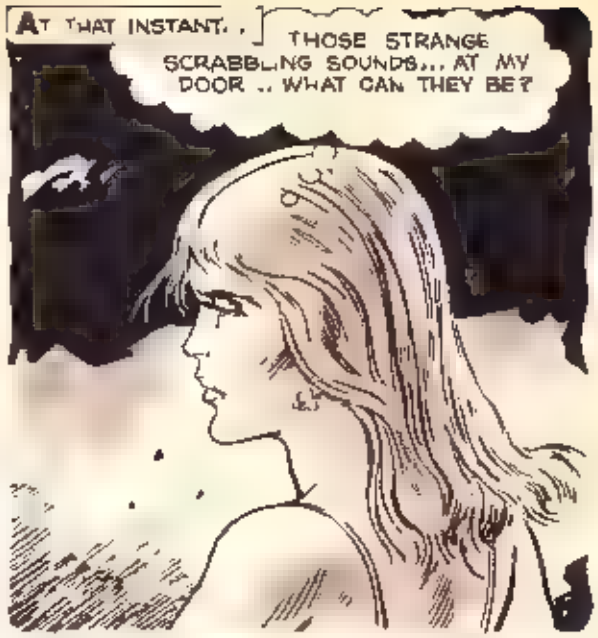
DO NOT BE AFRAID DONALD! WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU! THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS DISCOVERED THIS SERUM WHICH CONTAINS THE SECRET OF IMMORTAL LIFE...

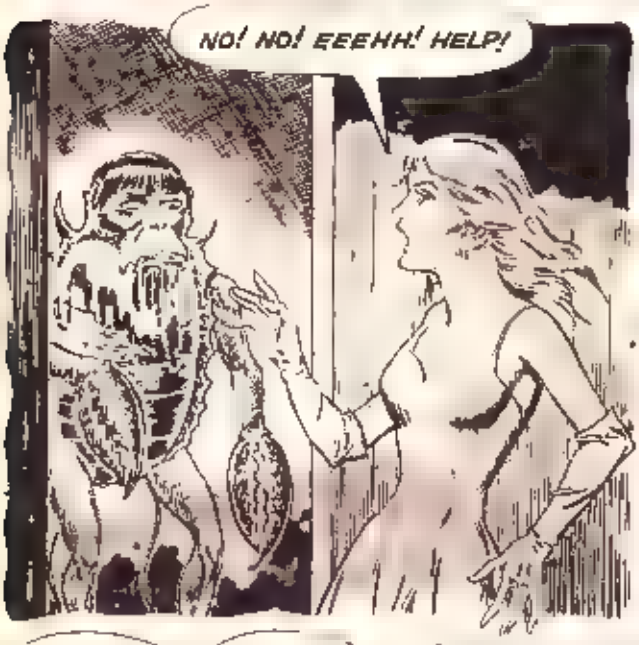
AND SINCE THEN WHENEVER A DONDER HAS BEEN READY TO DIE WE GIVE HIM THE GIFT OF YEARS WITHOUT END. THE SERUM WILL CHANGE YOU... AS WE HAVE BEEN CHANGED... AND BENEATH THE SEA YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER!

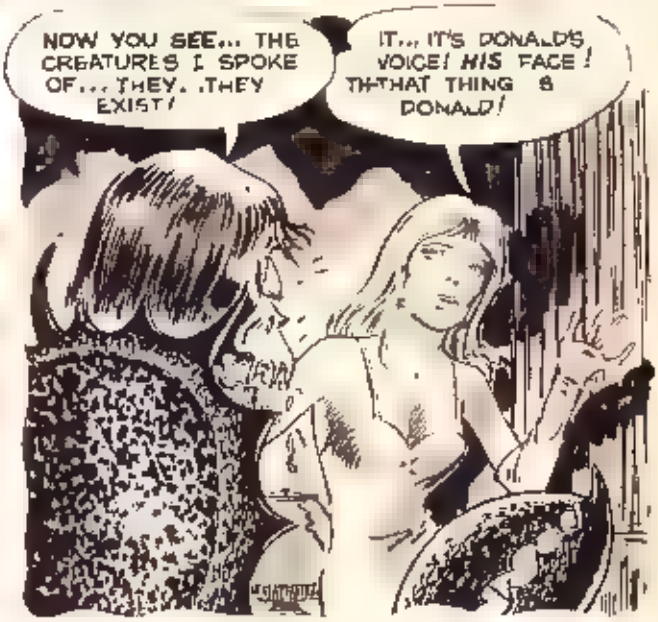
THOSE TREASURES YOU SAW WE DREDGED THEM FROM THE LIMITLESS WEALTH THAT LIES BENEATH THE SEA SOON, YOU WILL SEE OUR LAND BELOW THE WATER!

COME YOU ARE READY.
ETERNAL LIFE BENEATH THE SEA BUT STILL I WANT MONA SHE PROMISED!

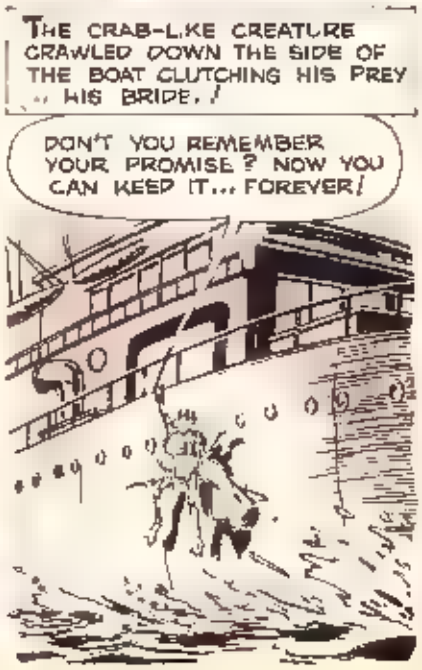
SOME WEEKS LATER, ON AN OCEAN LINER.
EVERYTHING I WANTED . AND WITHOUT BEING SHACKLED TO THAT FOOL WITH HIS RIDICULOUS FANTASIES!


AT THAT INSTANT. .
THOSE STRANGE SCRABBLING SOUNDS... AT MY DOOR .. WHAT CAN THEY BE?


NO! NO! EEEHH! HELP!


NOW YOU SEE... THE CREATURES I SPOKE OF... THEY. .THEY EXIST!
IT... IT'S DONALD'S VOICE! HIS FACE! TH-THAT THING IS DONALD!

YES ..NOW I AM ONE OF THEM... AND SO WILL YOU BE SOON!
DONALD PLEASE! I'M SORRY! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!


THE CRAB-LIKE CREATURE CRAWLED DOWN THE SIDE OF THE BOAT CLUTCHING HIS PREY .. HIS BRIDE. /
DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE? NOW YOU CAN KEEP IT... FOREVER!

THE END

beyond EVIL

IT'S TRULY WRITTEN BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT BEYOND THIS WORLD THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS... BUT WHOEVER MET ONE FROM ACROSS THE RIVER STYX???

GO BACK! BACK TO THE SPIRIT WORLD!

NO! I HAVE BEEN DEAD LONG ENOUGH.

The OLD CRONE KNOWN AS CANTINA SAT VACANT EYED AND SLOWLY ROCKED TO AND FRO AS SHE SOFTLY MURMERED..

IT WON'T BE LONG, JAN IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE ARE TOGETHER!

WHO IS JAN? TO UNDERSTAND IT, IT IS NECESSARY TO GO BACK FORTY YEARS!

CANTINA MY DARLING! YOU HAVE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

JAN, IT IS I WHO IS HAPPY AT THE THOUGHT OF MARRYING YOU!

WE WILL ARRANGE FOR A VERY BIG WEDDING FOUR WEEKS FROM TODAY!

AND THEN, YOU WILL STOP THIS WORK WITH THE SPIRITS! IT IS NOT NATURAL--

ALL RIGHT! WHEN I BECOME A BRIDE, I STOP BEING A MEDIUM!

OUTSIDE THE GYPSY CAMP OTHER PLANS--WERE BEING DISCUSSED!

WE CAN DO IT BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE WATCHMAN.

IF HE GETS IN THE WAY WE JUST PLUG HIM.

THAT'S NOT SMART!

AND AS FATE DECIDED, ONE OF THE PLOTTERS NOTICED THE SIGN OF CANTINA, THE GYPSY SPIRITUALIST.

IT SURE WAS A SAD DAY FOR US WHEN BRITT GOT KILLED IN THAT GUN FIGHT!

YEAH! I WISH HE WAS HERE TO PLAN THIS CAPER.

HEY! THAT SIGN GIVES ME AN IDEA! MAYBE THAT MEDIUM CAN GET US IN TOUCH WITH BRITT.

AW-W G'WAN!

YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT JUNK DO YOU ERNIE?

CANTINA SPIRIT MEDIUM

I DON'T USUALLY BUT I'M WILLING TO TRY ANYTHING ONCE! MAYBE WE CAN CONTACT BRITT!

WHY KID OURSELVES.. THAT STUFF DOESN'T WORK

SOON THE THREE GUNMEN FIND THEMSELVES INSIDE THE GYPSY'S WAGON...

...AND WE'LL GIVE YOU ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IF YOU CONTACT THE SPIRIT OF JOE BRITT

CANTINA I MUST SEE YOU AT ONCE

CANTINA LEFT THE CUSTOMERS FOR A MOMENT...
CANTINA, YOU MUST NOT DO IT! THE MAN THEY MENTIONED--JOE BRITT--WAS A CRIMINAL WHO WAS KILLED. SEND THESE EVIL MEN AWAY!
BUT JAN... THEY WILL PAY ME A HUNDRED DOLLARS!
DON'T DO IT, CANTINA!
THE THOUGHT OF SO MUCH MONEY SWEPT AWAY ANY HESITATION CANTINA HAD.
YOU WILL ALL BE VERY QUIET AND DO NOT SPEAK UNTIL THE SPIRIT APPEARS!
I AM READY!
SLOWLY THE MEDIUM SANK INTO A STUPOR-LIKE TRANCE! HER BREATH CAME HEAVILY. WEIRD NOISES SOUNDED IN THE DARKENED ROOM AS SPIRITS IMPRISONED IN THEIR OWN WORLD TRIED FEVERISHLY TO SEEK THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE MORTALS!
THEN SLOWLY A HAZE BEGAN TO FORM A GHOSTLY CLOUD AROUND CANTINA!
GOSH LOOK! THE CLOUD IS COMING RIGHT OUT OF HER!
SHUT UP!
THE NOISES OF THE INVISIBLE SPECTRES IN THE ROOM WAILED TO A HIGH SHRIEK AND THEN
IT'S BRITT! HE'S HERE!
ASK HIM WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

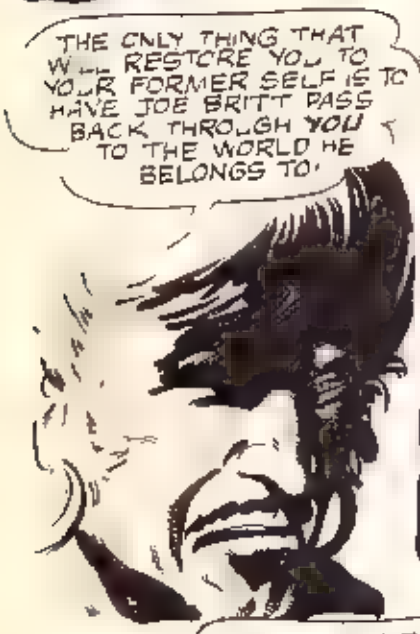
BRITT, WE WANT TO ROB THE EMERY WAREHOUSE BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE WATCHMAN!
TIE HIM AND LEAVE HIM IN THE TIMEKEEPERS SHACK!
COME TO ME ANY TIME YOU NEED ME!
BRITT VANISHED AND CANTINA AWOKE FROM HER SLEEP...
YOU WERE GREAT! WE SAW BRITT, PLAIN AS DAY!
IT'S WEIRD HOW DO YOU DO IT?
I AM TOLD BY MY PEOPLE, IT'S A GIFT!
WELL IT'S JUST WHAT WE WANT! HERE'S TWO "C" NOTES AND YOU'LL GET MORE EACH SESSION.
SO MUCH MONEY? THIS IS WONDERFUL!
YOU JUST BRING BACK JOE BRITT WHENEVER WE NEED HIM!
YEAH! WE'LL BE SEEING YOU
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL! JAN! WE'LL BE RICH!
CANTINA! IT'S WRONG! THESE MEN ARE USING YOUR MYSTICAL POWERS FOR CRIMINAL ACTS! I BEG OF YOU. DON'T DO IT!

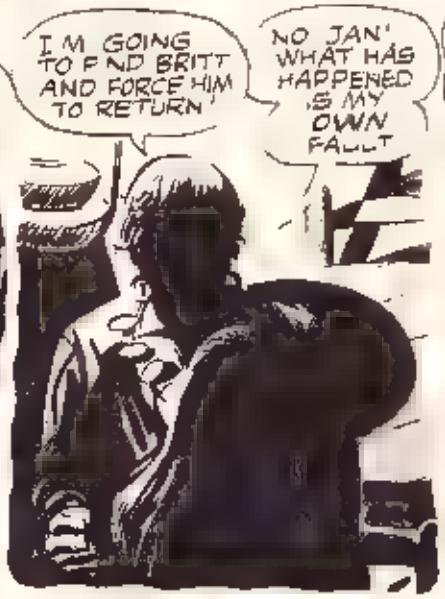
BUT CANTINA'S DESIRES OVERCAME JAN'S OBJECTIONS, AND SOON THE SUMMONING OF JOE BRITT BECAME A REGULAR EVENT WITH GANG...
YOU MEN JUST FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS AND THE JOB'LL WORK OUT ALL RIGHT!
SURE BRITT, WE'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
THE CRIMINALS PROSPERED UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT AND THEN ONE NIGHT.
MOAN - OOOH
ERNIE! WAKE UP
WHA-- OH!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
I JUST HAD A DREAM. BRITT TOLD ME HE WAS TIRED OF LIVING IN THE SPIRIT WORLD AND WANTS TO COME BACK TO EARTH; HE SAID TO HAVE THE MEDIUM BRING HIM BACK IN AND HE'LL TELL US WHAT TO DO THEN
THE NEXT DAY THE MEN TOLD CANTINA THAT THEY WANTED TO SEE THE FULL BODY OF JOE BRITT
I WON'T LET HER DO IT! CANTINA GIVES OF HERSELF WHEN THE SPIRIT TAKES SHAPE AND SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN DURING THE SEANCE IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR HER!

WE'RE WILLING TO PAY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IF YOU DO IT JUST THIS ONCE!
THE POWER OF MONEY WON OVER JAN'S PROTESTS! SOON CANTINA WAS IN HER TRANCE INVITING THE APPEARANCE OF JOE BRITT.
I THINK I SEE HIM IN THERE
SHHH
LOOK! HIS HAND! IT ISN'T GHOSTLY! HE'S COME TO LIFE!
QUICK! REACH IN AND PULL ME OUT OF HERE! HURRY!
HURRY, PULL!
NO! NO! STOP! IF HE COMES BACK TO LIFE IT WILL HARM CANTINA.
KEEP OUT OF THIS, BUSTER!
IT SURE IS GOOD NOT TO BE A GHOST ANY MORE!
C'MON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BRITT YOU LOOK SO REAL! I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENED
AS JAN CAME TO...
CANTINA... WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CANTINA?

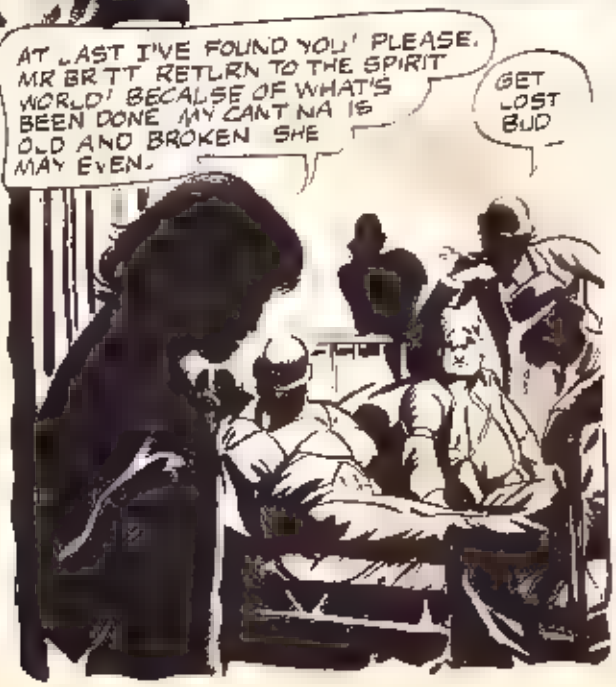
CANTINA!
YA-EEE!

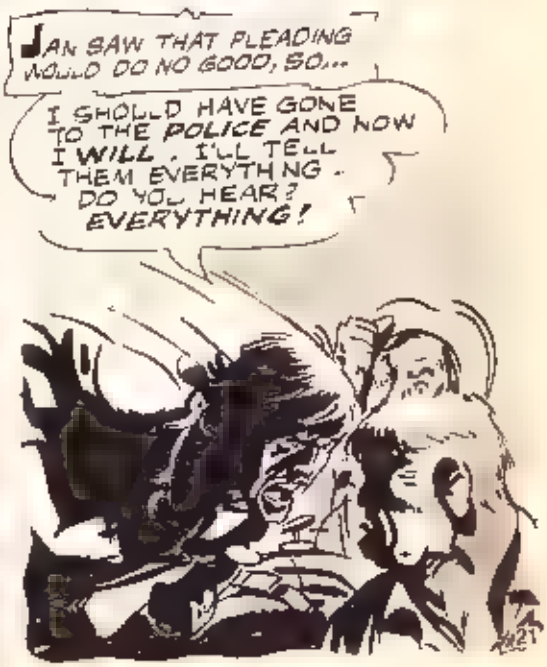
IT WAS SEVERAL MINUTES BEFORE JAN COULD BRING HIMSELF TO APPROACH THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL CANTINA! THEN SLOWLY HE BROUGHT HER BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS!
AIEEE! JAN! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHEN YOU BROUGHT THAT CRIMINAL BACK PART OF YOUR LIFE WENT TO HIM!


THE ONLY THING THAT WILL RESTORE YOU TO YOUR FORMER SELF IS TO HAVE JOE BRITT PASS BACK THROUGH YOU TO THE WORLD HE BELONGS TO!


I'M GOING TO FIND BRITT AND FORCE HIM TO RETURN!
NO JAN! WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS MY OWN FAULT

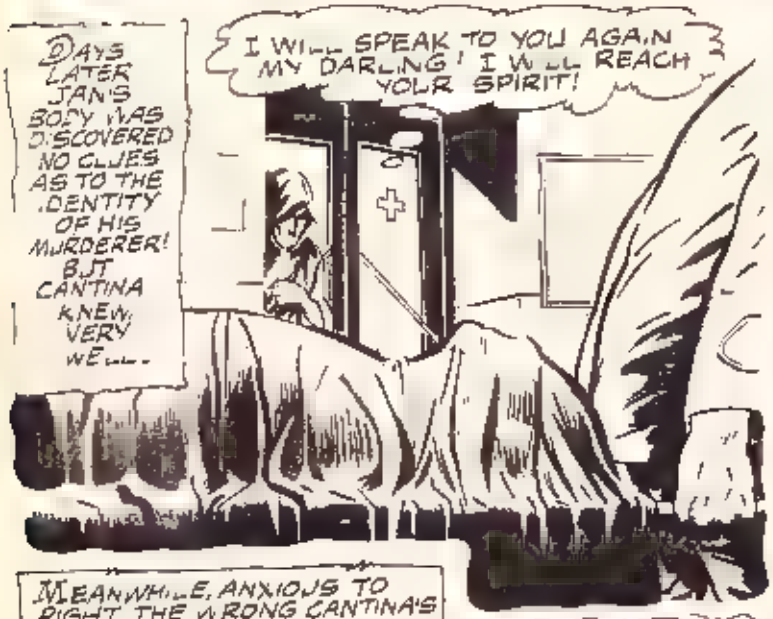
DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE FOR ME! I AM NOT WORTHY OF IT!
DARLING I WON'T REST UNTIL I HAVE FOUND JOE BRITT!

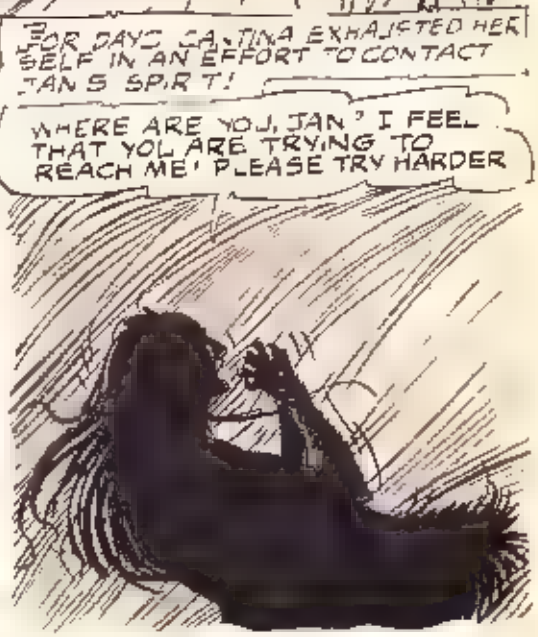

JAN SEARCHED THE CITY STALKING ALL WHO COULD LEAD HIM TO THE UNDER-WORLD LEADER AND FINALLY,
AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU! PLEASE, MR BRITT RETURN TO THE SPIRIT WORLD! BECAUSE OF WHAT'S BEEN DONE MY CANTINA IS OLD AND BROKEN SHE MAY EVEN.
GET LOST BUD


JAN SAW THAT PLEADING WOULD DO NO GOOD, SO...
I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE POLICE AND NOW I WILL. I'LL TELL THEM EVERYTHING. DO YOU HEAR? EVERYTHING!

NO ONE'S GOING TO SEE THE COPS ON US ...LOOK OUT BRITT I'LL GET HIM

HE'S DEAD
HURRY UP AND GET HIS BODY OUT OF HERE!


DAYS LATER JAN'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED NO CLUES AS TO THE IDENTITY OF HIS MURDERER! BUT CANTINA KNEW VERY WELL...
I WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN MY DARLING! I WILL REACH YOUR SPIRIT!


FOR DAYS CANTINA EXHAUSTED HERSELF IN AN EFFORT TO CONTACT JAN'S SPIRIT!
WHERE ARE YOU, JAN? I FEEL THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH ME! PLEASE TRY HARDER

MEANWHILE, ANXIOUS TO RIGHT THE WRONG CANTINA'S GREED HAD DONE, JAN SOUGHT TO CONTACT HER TOO
CANTINA! I HEAR YOU BUT I CANNOT FIND YOU

I GOT TO FIND YOU I'VE GOT TO COME BACK AND FORCE JOE BRITT BACK TO THE SPIRIT WORLD

I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO REST UNTIL THE EVIL THAT HAS BEEN DONE IS RIGHTED!

And AFTER A FEVERISH SEARCH, THE SPIRIT OF JAN FINALLY BROKE THROUGH!

BY COMING BACK, I AM TAKING MORE LIFE OUT OF YOU MY PRECIOUS, BUT SOON ALL WILL BE OVER AND WHEN YOU AWAKEN, YOU WILL BE YOUR BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SELF AGAIN!

WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE NEED NO LONGER FEAR EARTHLY HARM, JAN WENT DIRECTLY TO THE APARTMENT OF JOE BRITT!

JOE BRITT I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE DEAD!

IT'S THAT GYPSY GUY AGAIN!

THE BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM!

YOU FORGET THAT I AM ALREADY DEAD..

BANG BANG BANG

WITH A CRY OF PENT UP RAGE JAN THREW HIMSELF ON THE MAN WHO RUINED HIS LIFE!

BY KILLING ME YOU GAVE ME THE ONLY MEANS OF MASTERING YOU

UGH!

STOP HIM YOU FOOLS!

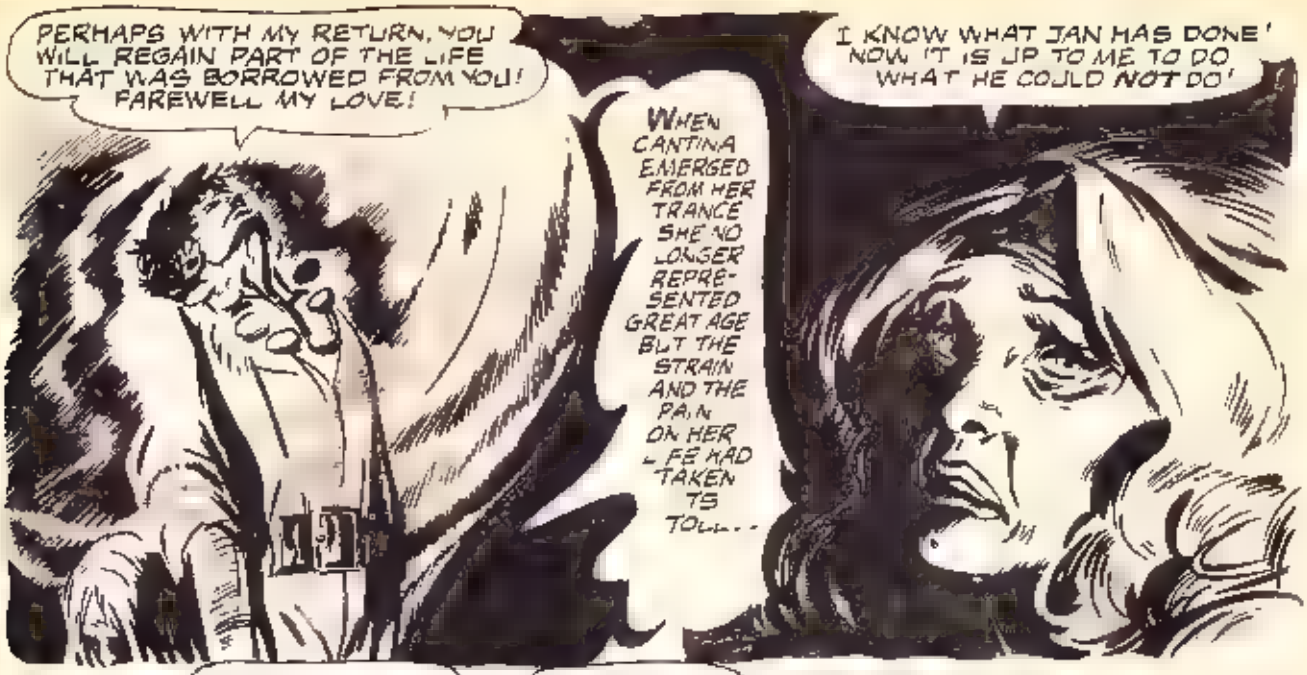
HOW CAN WE? OUR BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM.

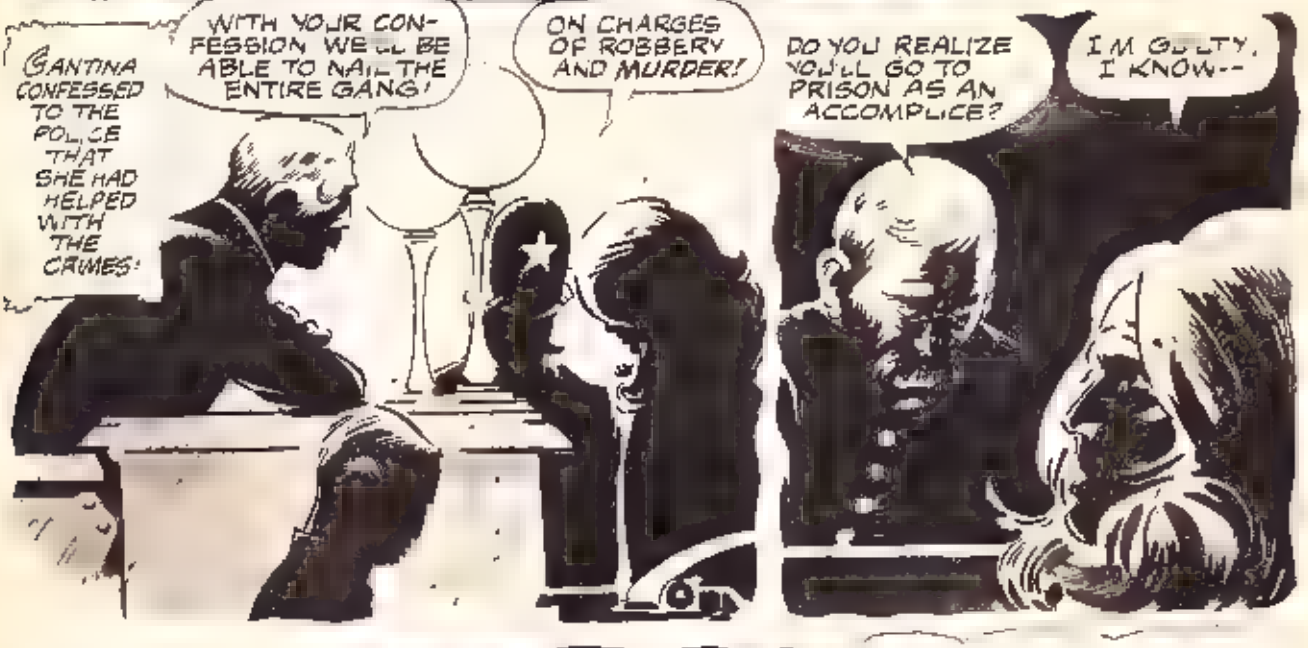
And SOON JAN RETURNED TO THE SEANCE WITH BRITT!

BACK! BACK INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD WHERE YOU BELONG! THE YEARS YOU HAVE TAKEN FROM CANTINA WILL RETURN TO HER

BUT JAN WAS DISMAYED TO SEE THAT CANTINA'S FACE REMAINED WRINKLED!

CANTINA! HE HAS GONE BACK BUT YOU REMAIN THE SAME! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!


PERHAPS WITH MY RETURN, YOU WILL REGAIN PART OF THE LIFE THAT WAS BORROWED FROM YOU! FAREWELL MY LOVE!
WHEN CANTINA EMERGED FROM HER TRANCE SHE NO LONGER REPRESENTED GREAT AGE BUT THE STRAIN AND THE PAIN ON HER LIFE HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL...
I KNOW WHAT JAN HAS DONE! NOW IT IS UP TO ME TO DO WHAT HE COULD NOT DO!

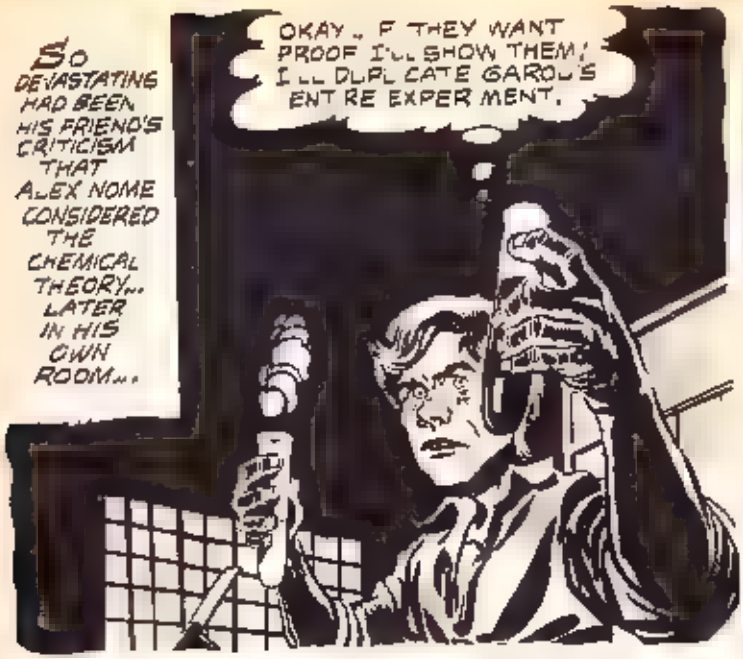

CANTINA CONFESSED TO THE POLICE THAT SHE HAD HELPED WITH THE CRIMES!
WITH YOUR CONFESSION WE'LL BE ABLE TO NAIL THE ENTIRE GANG!
ON CHARGES OF ROBBERY AND MURDER!
DO YOU REALIZE YOU'LL GO TO PRISON AS AN ACCOMPLICE?
I'M GUILTY, I KNOW--

THE YEARS ROLLED BY.
WAIT FOR ME, JAN DEAR! I'LL BE WITH YOU SOON!

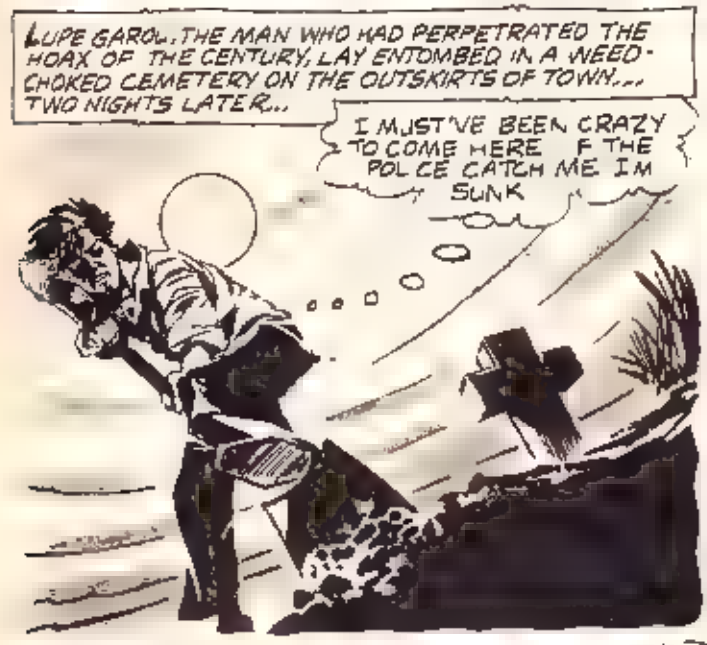
WE LEAVE THE AGING CANTINA NOW! HEE HEE BUT IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE SHE JOINS HER JAN. SHE'S GOING TO PAY FOR THE GREED IN HER HEART MANY TIMES OVER. HEE-HEE! HEEEEE!
THE END

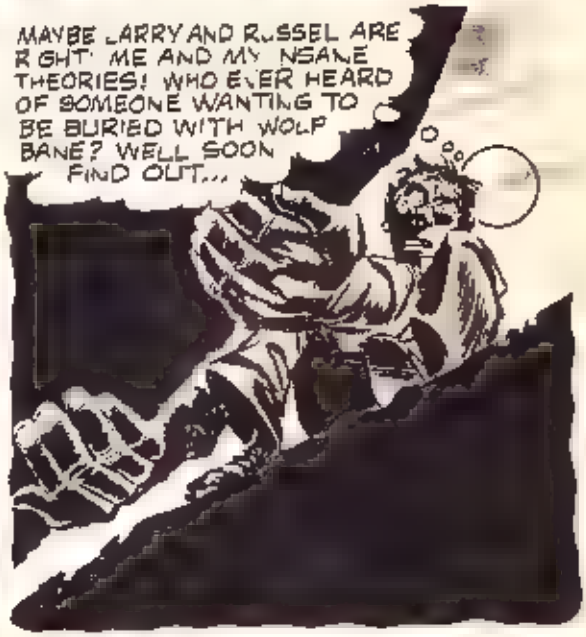
THE NIGHT DESCENDS... AND ALL THE CREATURES OF EARTH CURL UP FOR SLEEP, BUT ALIVE AND LURKING, IS ONE THAT HOWLS WITH EVIL GLEE... A CREATURE SHUNNED BY MAN AND BEAST THAT KILLS BY FANG AND CLAW... A HORROR THAT WAITS FOR A...

WEREWOLF

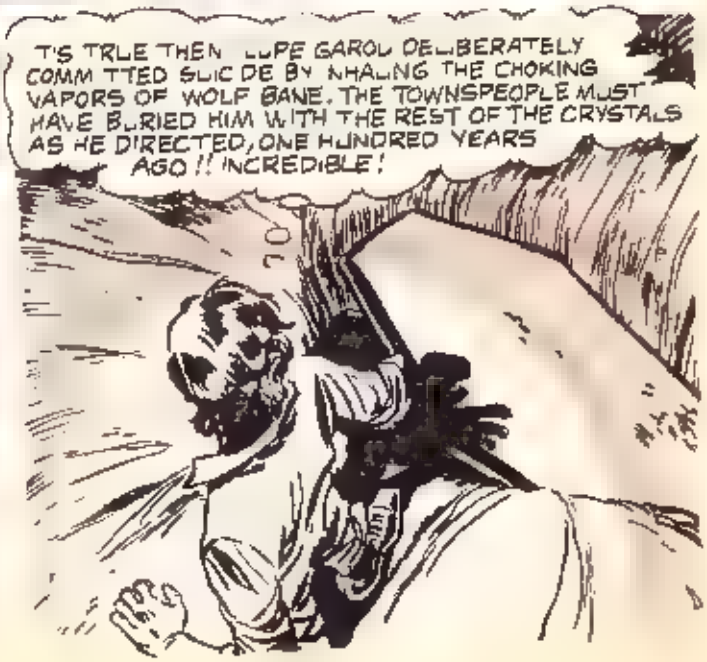

SO DEVASTATING HAD BEEN HIS FRIEND'S CRITICISM THAT ALEX NOME CONSIDERED THE CHEMICAL THEORY... LATER IN HIS OWN ROOM...
OKAY.. IF THEY WANT PROOF I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL DUPLICATE GAROU'S ENTIRE EXPERIMENT.

..BUT I'LL NEED "WOLF BANE" CRYSTALS AND GAROU'S NOTES SAY THAT HE WAS TO BE BURIED WITH THE CRYSTALS WHEN HE DIED! MY ONLY SOURCE THEN... IS GAROU'S GRAVE!


LUPE GAROU, THE MAN WHO HAD PERPETRATED THE HOAX OF THE CENTURY, LAY ENTOMBED IN A WEED-CHOKED CEMETERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN... TWO NIGHTS LATER...
I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO COME HERE IF THE POLICE CATCH ME I'M SUNK

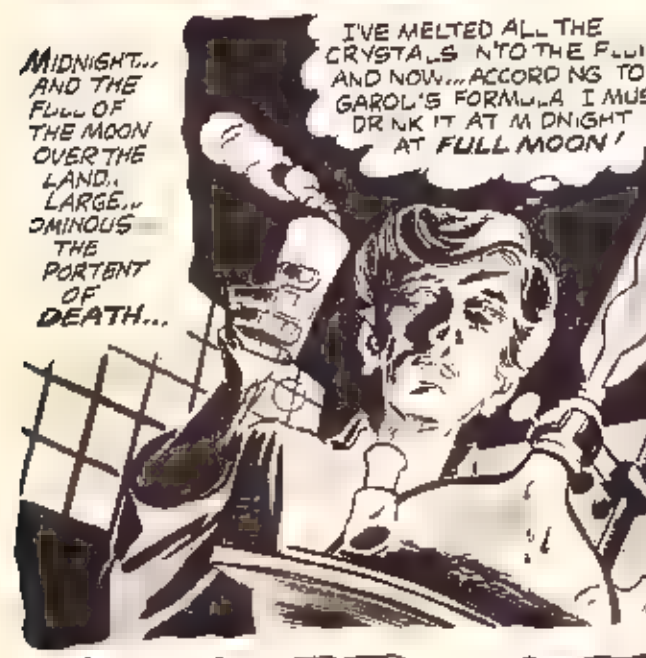

MAYBE LARRY AND RUSSEL ARE RIGHT. ME AND MY INSANE THEORIES! WHO EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE WANTING TO BE BURIED WITH WOLF BANE? WELL SOON FIND OUT...

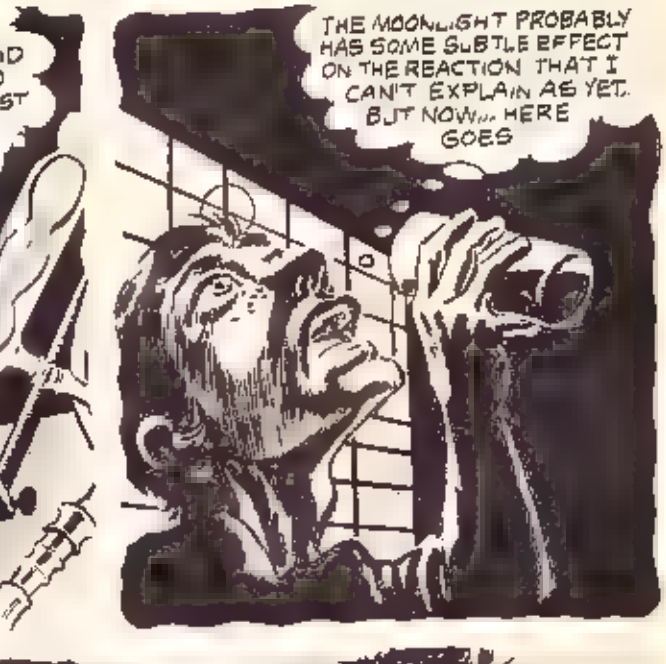
GREAT SCOTT!! H-HE WAS RIGHT! LOOK AT HIS FACE

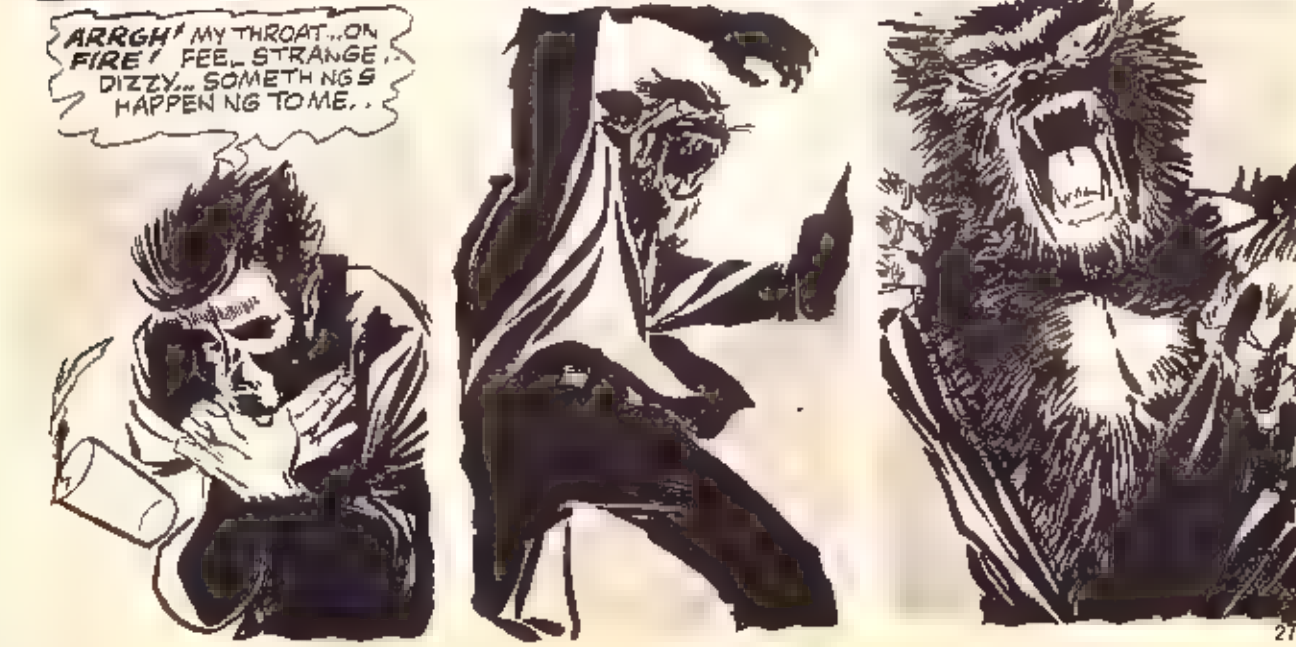

IT'S TRUE THEN LUPE GAROU DELIBERATELY COMMITTED SUICIDE BY INHALING THE CHOKING VAPORS OF WOLF BANE. THE TOWNSPEOPLE MUST HAVE BURIED HIM WITH THE REST OF THE CRYSTALS AS HE DIRECTED, ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!! INCREDIBLE!

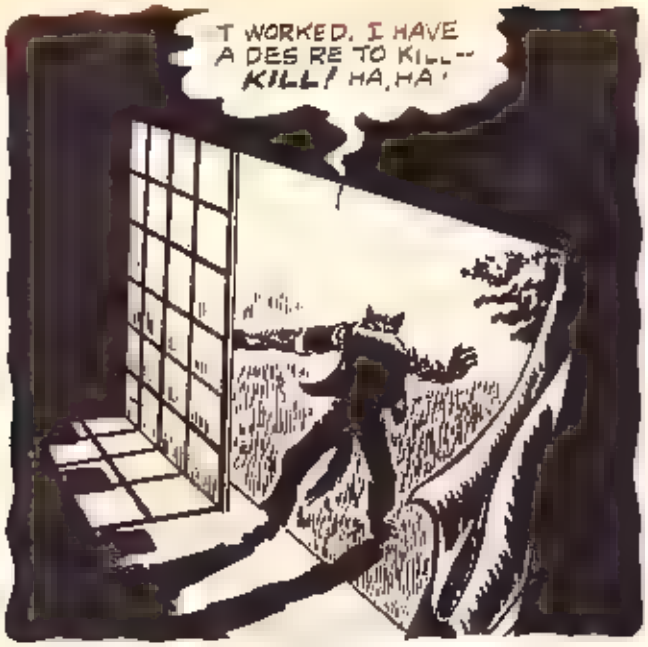
LATER...
THINK OF IT, DARLING... THE MINUTE I ANNOUNCE MY DISCOVERY, SCIENCE WILL STRIDE AHEAD
OH PLEASE ALEX, STOP TALKING IN MELODRAMATIC CLICHES!

COME NOW ADMIT YOU'RE JOKING WEREWOLVES CHEMICAL REACTIONS. HA, HA! I'D RATHER YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME.
YOU KNOW I DO ALICE... BUT I'M DEADLY EARNEST ABOUT THIS AND I'LL PROVE IT.


MIDNIGHT... AND THE FULL OF THE MOON OVER THE LAND... LARGE... OMINOUS THE PORTENT OF DEATH...
I'VE MELTED ALL THE CRYSTALS INTO THE FLUID AND NOW... ACCORDING TO GAROL'S FORMULA I MUST DRINK IT AT MIDNIGHT AT FULL MOON!


THE MOONLIGHT PROBABLY HAS SOME SUBTLE EFFECT ON THE REACTION THAT I CAN'T EXPLAIN AS YET. BUT NOW... HERE GOES


ARRGH! MY THROAT... ON FIRE! FEEL STRANGE... DIZZY... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME...


T WORKED. I HAVE A DES RE TO KILL-- KILL! HA, HA!

LATER...ON THE STREET
GETTING A BIT CHILLY LATELY. THINK I'LL WEAR MY WINTER COAT TOMORROW!

AAGGH! LET GO.: W-WHAT DO YOU WANT? AGGHH--!
..K... KILL KILL!

YAA-A-AHHH!

And THE BEAST OF HORROR STRUCK AGAIN. AGAIN... AND AGAIN AND...

AND WHEN DAWN CAME.
OHHH-H.. WHERE AM I? W-WHAT HAVE I DONE? I--I KILLED! HEAVEN HELP ME

BUT DAWN ALSO BROUGHT HORRIBLE NEWS AND FEAR TO ALEX NOME...
EXTRA, EXTRA NIGHT-FIEND STRIKES! FIVE DIE HORRIBLY!
I-I'M GOING TO GIVE MYSELF UP I'LL TELL RUSSEL AND CARRY EVERYTHING!
NEWS
ALEX I'VE TRIED TO REACH YOU ALL MORNING! THAT BUSINESS ABOUT THE WEREWOLF, FANTASTIC, BUT WE HAVE TO KNOW. YOU... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN JOKING...
OF COURSE I WAS. A MANIAC IS LOOSE... AND IT KILLS LIKE A BEAST! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
ALEX DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MADE HIM LIE BECAUSE NOW HE WAS TWO PEOPLE... AN EVIL MONSTER ENCASED IN THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN! LATER.
I CAN'T GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!! WHAT A FOOL I WAS. IT'S MIDNIGHT ONCE MORE... I... I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!!
BUT I FEEL SO STRANGE... LIKE BEFORE... I-I'M TURNING... TURNING...
GROW-WRR-R HA-HA! THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE! I'M STRONG AND EAGER... AND THE MOON CALLS HA-HA...
And TO THE ONE PERSON SO DEAR THE BEAST STEALTHILY STALKED... TO DESTROY HIS LAST BARRIER TO NORMALCY...
I SHALL RIP OPEN HER DELICIOUS THROAT TONIGHT, HA, HA!
CLOSER I COME TO HER WARM BLOOD! SEE HOW FRIGHTENED SHE IS NOW... NOW...
EEEEE

ALICE! AND.. AND... GOOD LORD! ALEX!

ALEX LETS GO OF THE GIRL AND ATTACKS HIS FRIEND..
HELP- HELP! CAN'T FIGHT HIM... MUCH LONGER...!

SUDDENLY THE POLICE ARRIVE BUT THE MENACE TURNS AND RUNS..
HEY YOU STOP!!
N-NO! DON'T SHOOT HIM! HE'S SICK!!

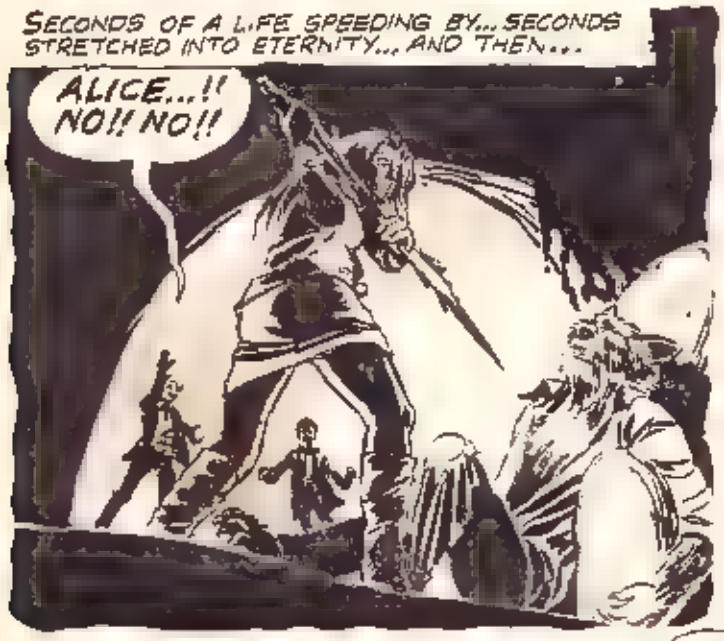
LATER...
IT'S ALMOST MORNING... THEY'LL FIND ME SOON! I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME! I-I WON'T BE ABLE TO DIE. I HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO MY HUMAN FORM; THE CHEMICAL REACTION MUST HAVE BEEN PERMANENT!

IF THEY TRY TO EXECUTE ME, I'LL LIVE TO KILL AGAIN. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS. GAROU MENTIONED HYPNOSIS OF ONE'S VICTIMS.. FORGIVE ME MY DARLING FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO...

MEANWHILE, BACK IN ALEX'S ROOM...
TRY TO CARRY OUT HIS EXPERIMENT TO THE LETTER LARRY! WE MUST HAVE AN ANTIDOTE QUICKLY!
BETTER STILL.. I'M GOING TO DRINK THE SAME CONCOCTION ALEX MADE. HERE GOES.

ONE HOUR LATER...
IT'S AS WE FEARED! THIS SOLUTION HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT
YES!! ALL THIS IS NOTHING BUT WASTED EFFORT! POOR ALEX!

ALEX IS ON MOON HILL! HE HAS ALICE UP THERE! THE POLICE SAW HER WALKING UP THERE ALONE THAT'S HOW THEY FOUND HIM! THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE IN
LET'S GO, COME ON LARRY I KNOW A SHORT CUT!


SECONDS OF A LIFE SPEEDING BY... SECONDS STRETCHED INTO ETERNITY... AND THEN...
ALICE...!! NO!! NO!!

YIEEEE!!

POLICE MORBID PEOPLE, REPORTERS... A CRYING GIRL WAKING UP FROM HER TRANCE... BUT MORE STARTLING... THE FACE OF THE BEAST...
WHY... HE'S NORMAL... NORMAL IN EVERY WAY!
YES, RUSSEL IN EVER WAY.

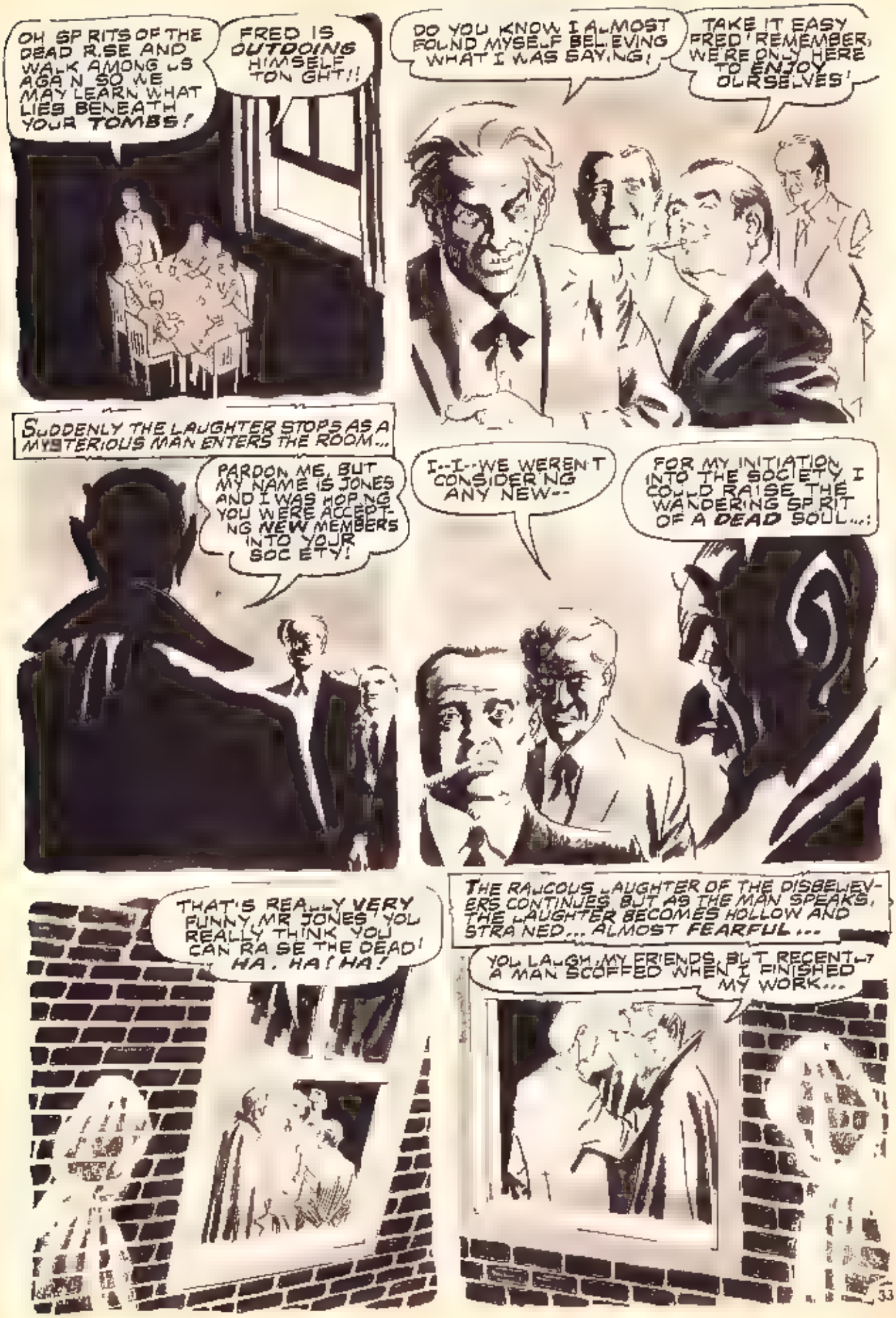
...EXCEPT IN HIS MIND! INSANITY MADE HIM THINK HE WAS A WEREWOLF! BUT REASON RECONQUERED FOR A WHILE MAKING HIM WANT TO KILL HIMSELF WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO HAVE HIS SWEETHEART DO IT? YES, INSANITY WAS THE HORRIBLE BEAST... NOT HIS EXPERIMENTS!
BUT HOW DID ALICE KNOW HE WAS HERE? HOW DID SHE KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM? EXPLAIN THAT IF YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT!!
THE END

TO VERY FEW IS IT GIVEN TO PROBE INTO THE BLACK RECESSES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD... TO LEARN THE CHILLING SECRETS BEHIND YAWNING GRAVES! TO LEARN IS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DAMNED...

Pit of Evil

TAKE THEM, MY FRIEND! DRAG THEM TO THE HELLISH DEPTHS WHERE THE DARKNESS IS ETERNAL!

NO! NO! AH-H-H!

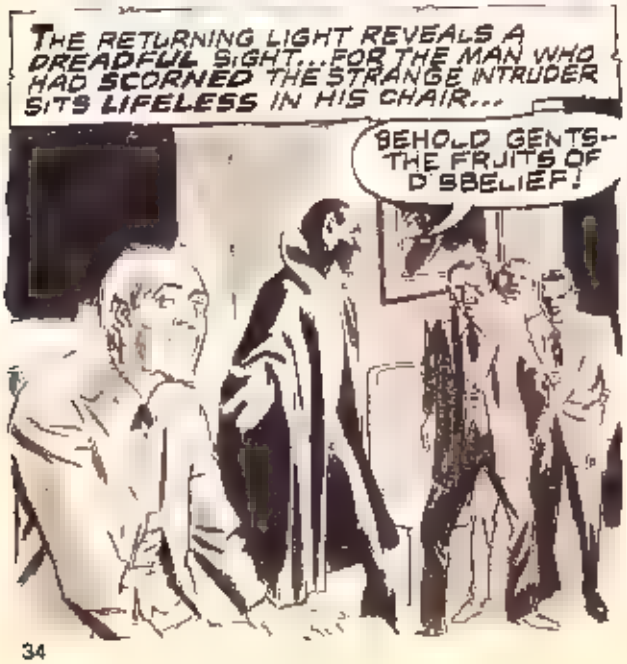

OH SPIRITS OF THE DEAD RISE AND WALK AMONG US AGAIN SO WE MAY LEARN WHAT LIES BENEATH YOUR TOMBS!
FRED IS OUTDOING HIMSELF TONIGHT!!
DO YOU KNOW I ALMOST FOUND MYSELF BELIEVING WHAT I WAS SAYING!
TAKE IT EASY FRED! REMEMBER, WE'RE ONLY HERE TO ENJOY OURSELVES!
SUDDENLY THE LAUGHTER STOPS AS A MYSTERIOUS MAN ENTERS THE ROOM...
PARDON ME, BUT MY NAME IS JONES AND I WAS HOPING YOU WERE ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS INTO YOUR SOCIETY!
I--I--WE WEREN'T CONSIDERING ANY NEW--
FOR MY INITIATION INTO THE SOCIETY I COULD RAISE THE WANDERING SPIRIT OF A DEAD SOUL...!
THAT'S REALLY VERY FUNNY, MR JONES! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN RAISE THE DEAD! HA, HA! HA!
THE RAUCOUS LAUGHTER OF THE DISBELIEVERS CONTINUES, BUT AS THE MAN SPEAKS, THE LAUGHTER BECOMES HOLLOW AND STRAINED... ALMOST FEARFUL...
YOU LAUGH, MY FRIENDS, BUT RECENTLY A MAN SCOFFED WHEN I FINISHED MY WORK...

--THE SCOFFER WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CHAIR-- STARING HORRIBLY AT NOTHING!

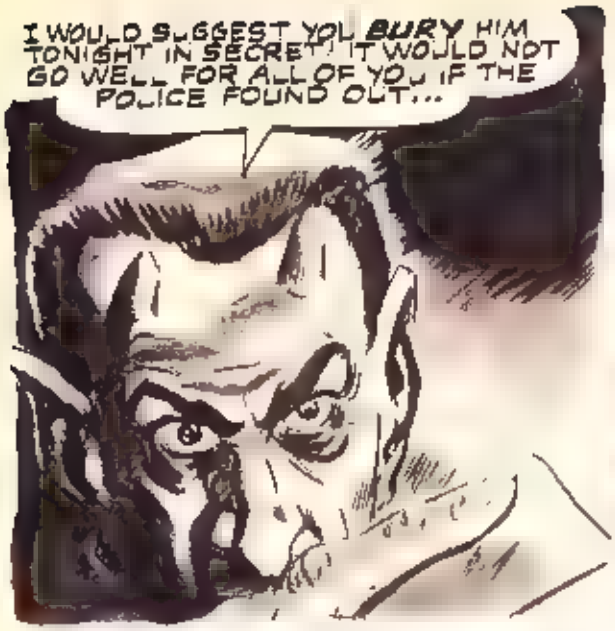
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
TURN THE LIGHTS ON!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!

WITHOUT WARNING THE BLACKNESS IS BROKEN BY A GHASTLY DECAYING BODY BEARING THE MARK OF THE GRAVE...
AHH, YOU HAVE COME FROM THE BLACK PIT OF DEATH TO PROVE MY POWER!

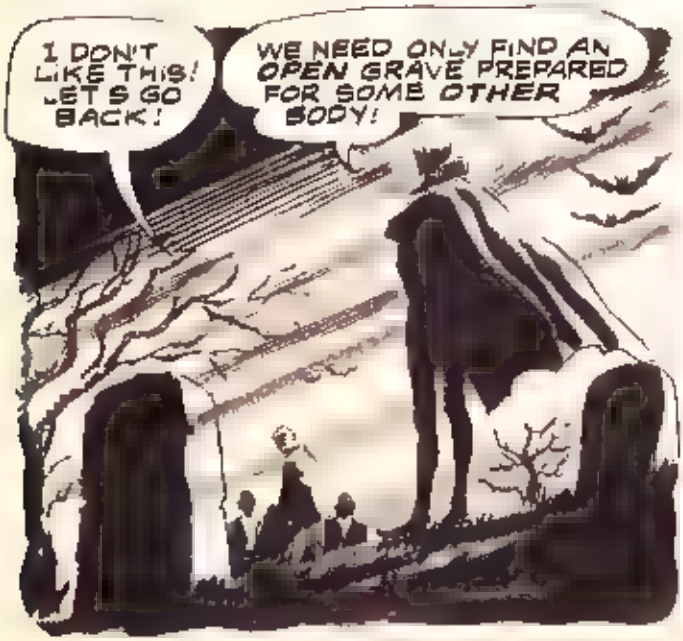
TH-THE LIGHT WORKS!
WH...!
NO-O-!


THE RETURNING LIGHT REVEALS A DREADFUL SIGHT...FOR THE MAN WHO HAD SCORNED THE STRANGE INTRUDER SITS LIFELESS IN HIS CHAIR...
BEHOLD GENTS-- THE FRUITS OF DISBELIEF!

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I-I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!



COMPELLED BY A FORCE WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED, THE TERRIFIED MEN TURN TO THE SMILING STRANGER FOR HELP, SETTING THEIR FEET ON A PATH FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN!



HURRY! IT WILL SOON BE DAYLIGHT!
HERE THE NIGHT IS ENDLESS! YOU WILL COVER THE GRAVE WHILE I SPEAK!

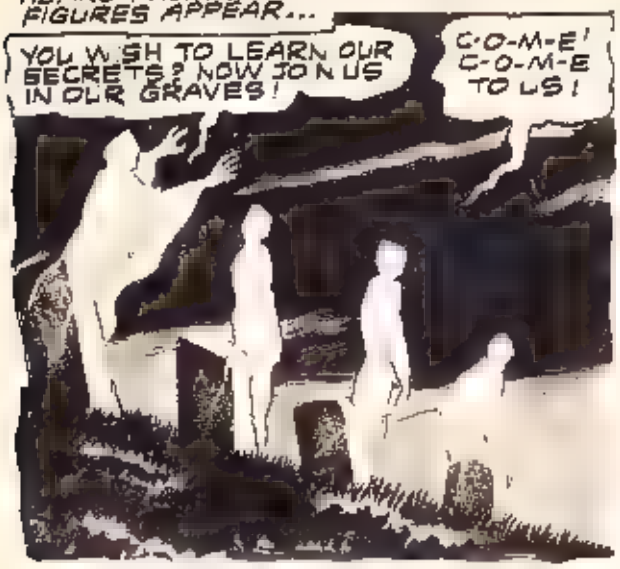
SPIRITS OF THE WORLD OF EVIL, LIFT THE SOUL OF THIS MAN OUT OF HIS LIFELESS BODY AND CARRY IT TO THE LAND OF ETERNAL DAMNATION!

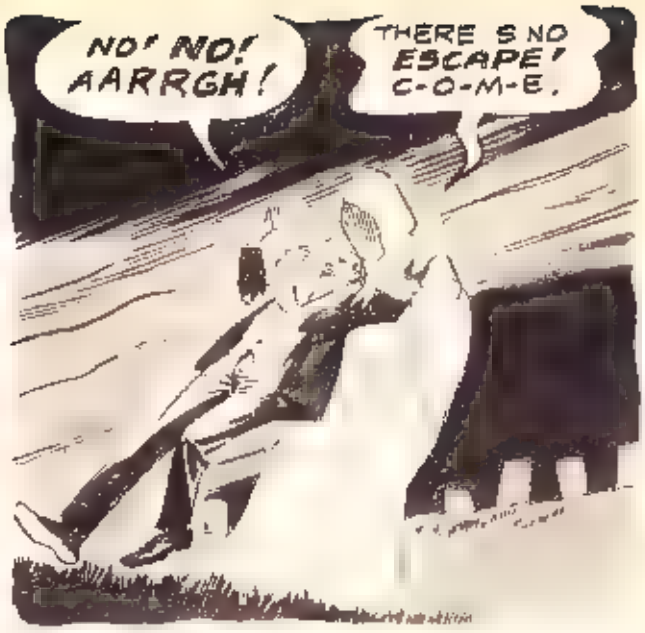
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
SO AM I! I WANT NO PART OF THIS!

STOP!! YOU WILL GO NO FURTHER!

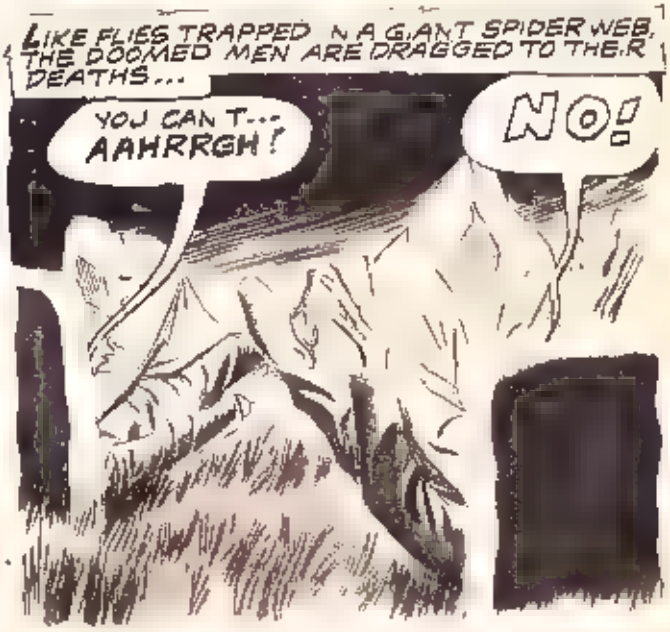
LEGS FREEZE IN RIGID TERROR AS THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER ORDERS THEM TO HALT...
THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US? WHAT POWER DO YOU HAVE?
MY LEGS WON'T MOVE!


AS IF IN ANSWER, RUSTLING NOISES ARE HEARD FROM THE GRAVES AS PHANTOM FIGURES APPEAR...
YOU WISH TO LEARN OUR SECRETS? NOW JOIN US IN OUR GRAVES!
C-O-M-E! C-O-M-E TO US!


NO! NO! AARRGH!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE! C-O-M-E.

HURRY, MY PRETTIES! TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO YOUR HOMES!
LET ME GO! AH-H!
UGH-H!


LIKE FLIES TRAPPED IN A GIANT SPIDER WEB, THE DOOMED MEN ARE DRAGGED TO THEIR DEATHS...
YOU CAN'T... AAHRRGH!
NO!

TH-THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE GRAVES!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US NOW?
I--I SMELL SOMETHING IN THE AIR!

IT'S THE SMELL OF BRIMSTONE!

WHO ARE YOU? TELL US!
IT IS TIME THAT YOU KNEW MY IDENTITY!

I CALL MYSELF MR JONES, BUT I HAVE ANOTHER AND FAR MORE FAMOUS NAME--I AM--

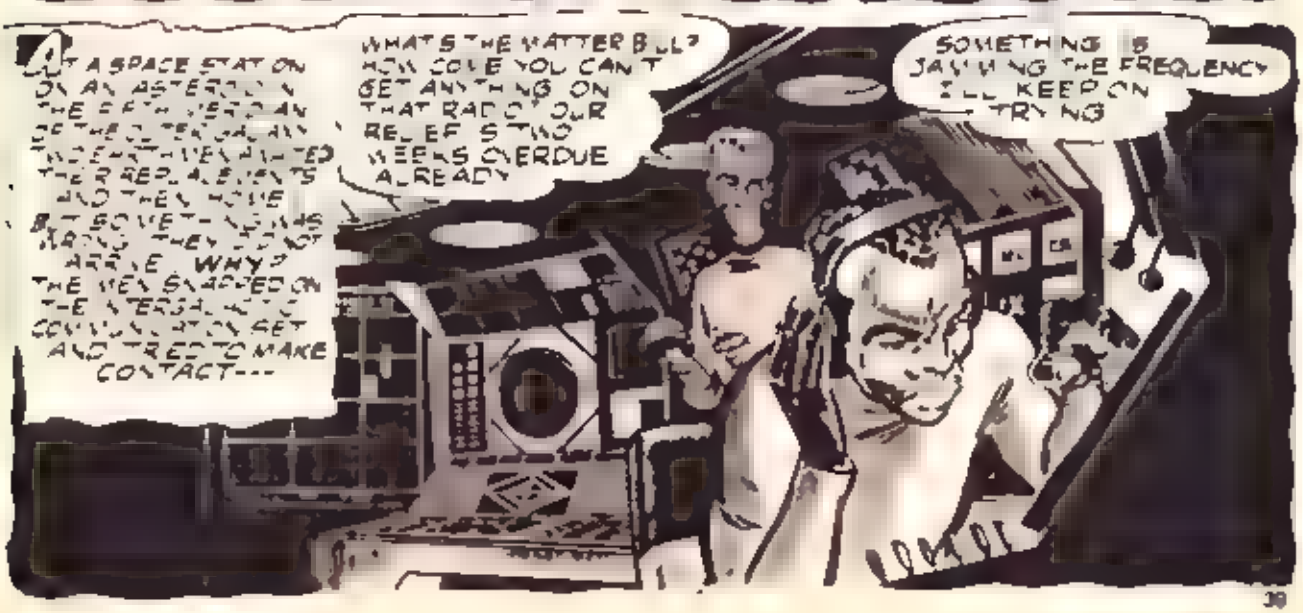
A SUDDEN BURST OF FLAME INTRUDES UPON THE BLACKNESS, AND THE FIGURE OF MR JONES GLOWS WITH THE LIGHT OF PURE EVIL AND MALICE!
SATAN THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!

...AND NOW YOU MUST BECOME MY DISCIPLES, NEW MEMBERS IN THE LEAGUE OF THE DAMNED!

HA! HA! NOW IT IS I WHO IS HAVING THE FUN! YOU SCOFFED AT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD--AND NOW YOU WILL WISH YOU WERE AMONG THEM!

LET THOSE WHO WISH TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE OTHER WORLD TAKE HEED BEFORE THEY BEGIN--FOR THEREIN LIES WILD TERROR AND HORRIBLE DEATH!
DANCE, MY FRIENDS, DANCE FOR YOUR MASTER! HA! HA!
THE END

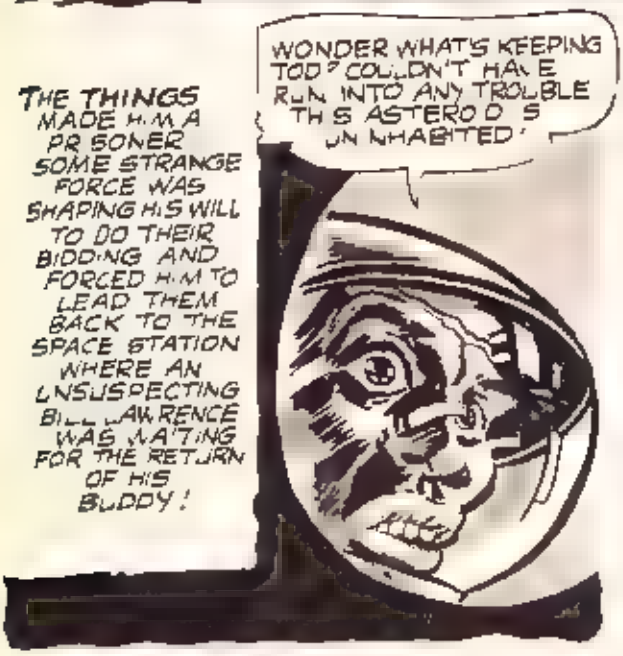
the INVADERS



HELO, EARTH... THIS IS SPACE STATION 27-B, REPORTING ...COME IN EARTH... COME IN.
LOOK TOO ON THE RADAR-VIEWER. A SHIP IS COMING IN FOR A LANDING ...MUST BE OUR RELIEF IT'S GOT TO BE!
CM
THE MEN WATCHED THE SHIP LEVEL OUT FOR A LANDING BUT THEIR HOPES TURN TO HORROR AS THE JETS SUDDENLY GAVE WAY AND THE CRAFT NOSED IN OUT OF CONTROL...
KEEP WORKING THAT RADIO I'M GOING OUT TO THE SHIP MAYBE SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF OURS; HEY... THOSE THINGS DRIFTING OUT OF THE WRECK..
YUGGH! KEEP AWAY! I'LL BLAST YOU IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER!

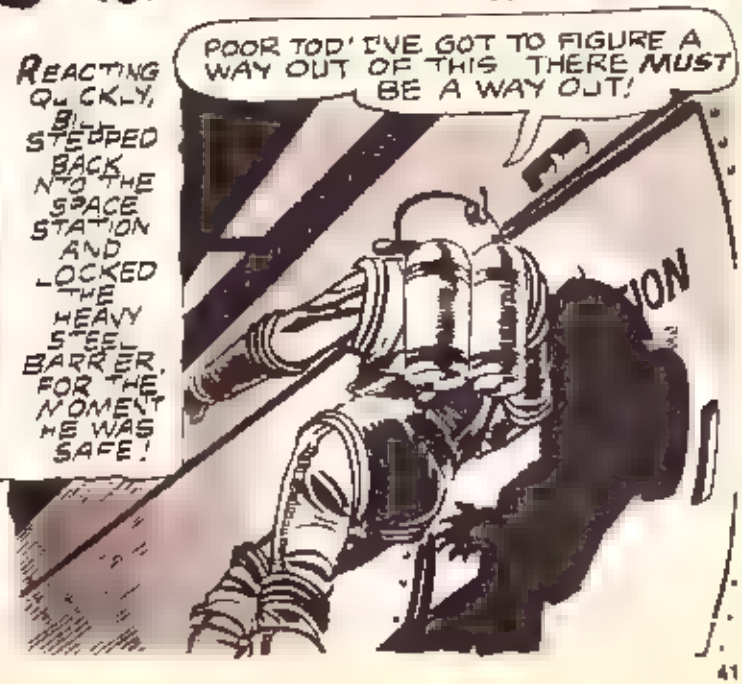
BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM TO FIGHT OFF! IN DESPERATION, TOD TURNED AND RACED FOR THE SPACE STATION.

.. IT WAS NO USE! IN A FEW MOMENTS THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER AND THE EARTHMAN WAS A PRISONER!
AARRGHH!


THE THINGS MADE HIM A PRISONER SOME STRANGE FORCE WAS SHAPING HIS WILL TO DO THEIR BIDDING AND FORCED HIM TO LEAD THEM BACK TO THE SPACE STATION WHERE AN UNSUSPECTING BILL LAWRENCE WAS WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF HIS BUDDY!
WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING TOD? COULDN'T HAVE RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE THIS ASTEROID IS UNINHABITED!

THEN, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND WHEN BILL OPENED IT ..
WHAT IN THE WORLD. NO! IT CAN'T BE

TOD! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
MY MIND HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THESE SUPERIOR BRAINS. THEY CONTROL MY WILL POWER AND I AM FORCED TO DO THEIR BIDDING!


REACTING QUICKLY, BILL STEPPED BACK INTO THE SPACE STATION AND LOCKED THE HEAVY STEEL BARRIER. FOR THE MOMENT HE WAS SAFE!
POOR TOD! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS. THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT!

I HAVE READ YOUR MIND AND THERE IS NO WAY OUT YOU ARE DOOMED! THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN OUR CONQUERING YOUR PLANET!
BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO LEAVE HERE? YOUR SHIP IS WRECKED AND IT IS THE ONLY MEANS OF FLIGHT
WE HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT TOO BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO YOU UNTIL WE HAVE TAKEN OVER YOUR MIND! DO YOU SURRENDER?
NEVER! I'LL NEVER GIVE IN
THAT NOISE THEY'RE USING A HEAT-GUN!
BILL WATCHED IN TERROR AS THE BULKHEAD BEGAN TO GLOW WITH HEAT...
...THEN THEY WERE THROUGH AS THE PLATES BUCKLED UNDER THE INTENSE PRESSURE!
THERE WAS NO STOPPING THEM AS THEY SWARMED THROUGH THE GAPING HOLE...
NO! NO! STAY BACK!

HE STRUGGLED VALIANTLY BUT THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT!
IN A FEW MOMENTS THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER
... AND BILL LAWRENCE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GRIP OF A STRANGE POWER THAT WAS TO CONTROL HIS EVERY ACTION! HE COULD NOT RESIST. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN HIS MIND... A HORRIBLE ONE... TO CONQUER EARTH!!
NOW WE CAN STOP THE JAMMING MACHINE. WE MUST CONTACT EARTH!
YES, I'LL TRY THEM AGAIN. HELLO EARTH. HELLO EARTH.
HELLO STATION 27 B3. THIS IS EARTH. YOUR RELIEF SHIP IS ON ITS WAY!
ROGER... WE'LL BE WAITING... OVER AND OUT!
THE TWO MEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER AND NODDED! THE FIRST STEP OF THEIR MISSION WAS NOW COMPLETED! THEY WERE GOING HOME... TO LEAD THE CONQUEST OF EARTH!!!
THE END

THE BLOODY HEAD

VERY INTERESTING! BUT WHY WAS HER HEAD PRESERVED?
WHEN TIMUR GREW TIRED OF HER, HE CUT OFF HER HEAD AND HAD IT EMBALMED VIA SOME STRANGE ORIENTAL PROCESS!
THEN HE SENT THE HEAD BACK TO SYR-DARYA'S FAMILY. ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY SINCE THEN WHO HAS TRIED TO GET RID OF IT SUFFERS A VIOLENT DEATH!
COUNT OLEG, YOU ARE MUCH TOO CIVILIZED TO REALLY BELIEVE A TALE LIKE THAT!
I TAKE NO PRIDE IN THE STORY. I HATE THE HEAD! IT TERRIFIES ME AND YET, IT FASCINATES ME!
WHY NOT FORGET ALL YOUR SUPERSTITIOUS ROT AND SELL ME THE HEAD? I'LL GIVE YOU A VERY GOOD PRICE FOR IT!
I WOULDN'T DARE!
BUT AS ADAM SUSPECTED, COUNT OLEG'S NEED FOR MONEY WAS GREAT AND ADAM FINALLY PERSUADED HIM THAT NIGHT TO SELL THE HEAD...
I HAVE A FEELING I AM SENDING BOTH OF US TO A HORRIBLE END BY DOING THIS THING!
NONSENSE, COUNT OLEG!
THAT NIGHT THE NOTES OF A STRANGE SONG WENT WILDLY THROUGH THE CASTLE...

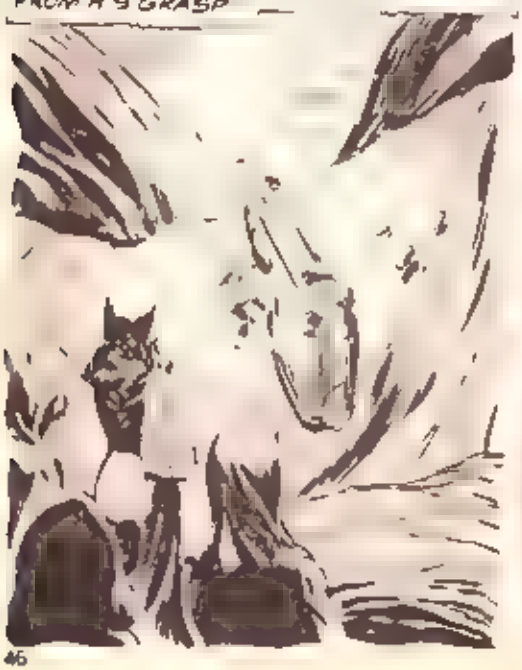
YOU HEARD IT TOO? T'IS THE DEATH SONG! I WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR MONEY
RIDICULOUS! WHAT WE HEARD WAS THE WIND OUTSIDE

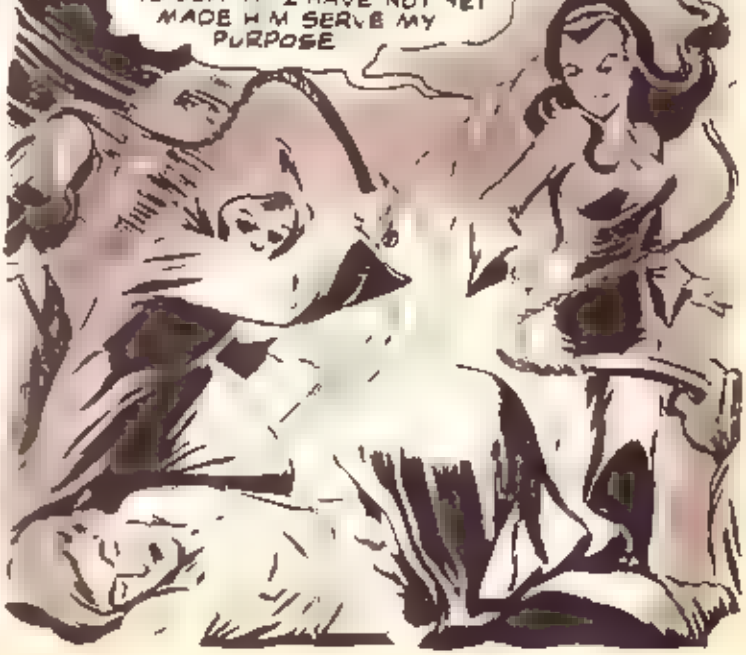
BUT EVEN ADAM WHEN HE WENT BACK TO HIS BEDROOM THAT NIGHT SEEMED TO FEEL THAT ALL THE FORCES OF PENT-UP EVIL LASHED THE CASTLE AS THE WEIRD SONG CONTINUED

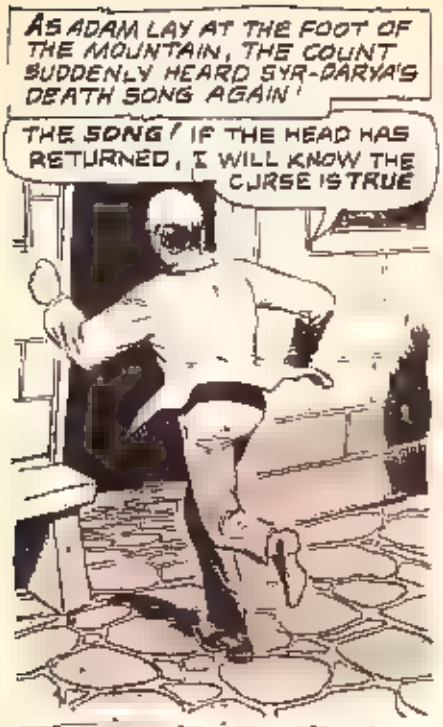
THE NEXT MORNING
GO PLEASE. TAKE YOUR MONEY. LEAVE ME WITH THE HEAD
NO! LAST NIGHT WAS WEIRD BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE STORM SCARE ME

THE IDEA OF THIS THING IS RIDICULOUS! IT'S JUST WELL-PRESERVED FLESH I'LL CARRY IT IN THIS HAT BOX
I-I HAVE A FEELING I SHALL SEE IT AGAIN!

ADAM STARTED BACK TOWARD THE BORDER.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?


AS ADAM HEARD THE SONG INVISIBLE HANDS SEEMED TO WRENCH THE WHEEL FROM HIS GRASP

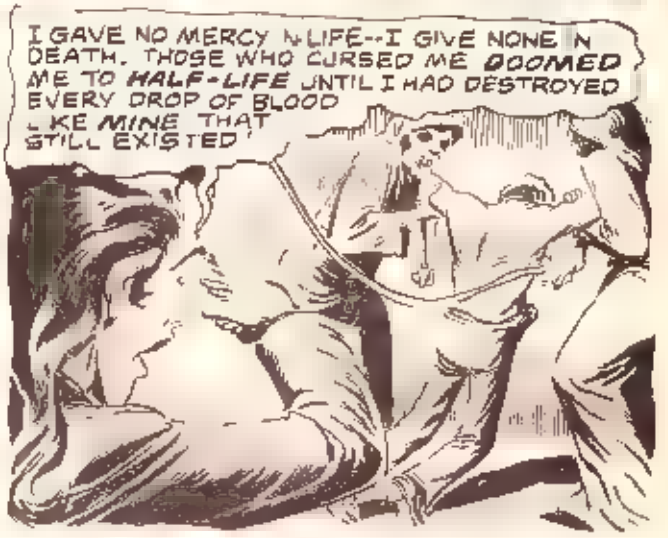

Then
BEAT HIM! BUT NOT TO DEATH. I HAVE NOT YET MADE HIM SERVE MY PURPOSE

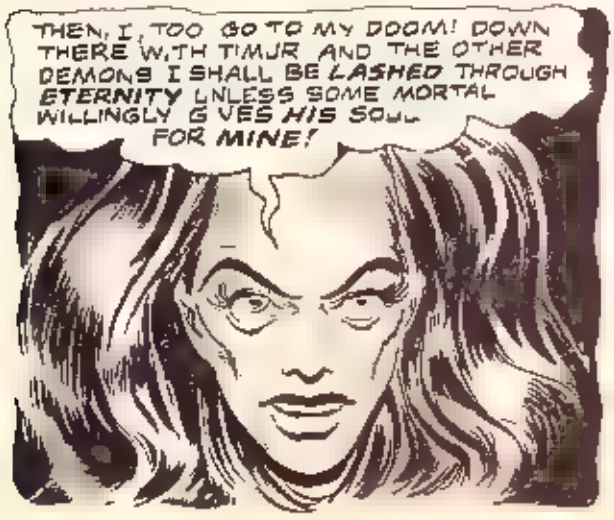

AS ADAM LAY AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN, THE COUNT SUDDENLY HEARD SYR-DARYA'S DEATH SONG AGAIN!
THE SONG! IF THE HEAD HAS RETURNED, I WILL KNOW THE CURSE IS TRUE

IT-IT IS BACK

SUDDENLY, THE EYES FLEW OPEN. THE LIPS PARTED, AND THE VOICE OF SYR-DARYA CAME AGAIN!
DA YAH DA-DA DI!

YOU ARE THE LAST OF THE DARYA FAMILY! WITH YOU DIES THE CURSE PUT UPON ME AND ALL MY BLOOD!
HELP! MERCY!


I GAVE NO MERCY IN LIFE--I GIVE NONE IN DEATH. THOSE WHO CURSED ME DOOMED ME TO HALF-LIFE UNTIL I HAD DESTROYED EVERY DROP OF BLOOD LIKE MINE THAT STILL EXISTED!


THEN, I, TOO GO TO MY DOOM! DOWN THERE WITH TIMUR AND THE OTHER DEMONS I SHALL BE LASHED THROUGH ETERNITY UNLESS SOME MORTAL WILLINGLY GIVES HIS SOUL FOR MINE!

HE'S DEAD! DA YAH DA DA DI

NO! NO! I HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE LAST OF DARYA BLOOD HAS LEFT THE EARTH TO WORK OUT MY OWN SALVATION

MEANWHILE...
IT IS SURPRISING YOU WERE NOT KILLED WHAT HAPPENED?

I-I WAS NOT TO BLAME SOMETHING STARTLED ME, AND, THEN THE WHEEL WAS WRENCHED OUT OF MY HAND
YOU HAD A SHOCK... PERHAPS YOU WERE DELIRIOUS

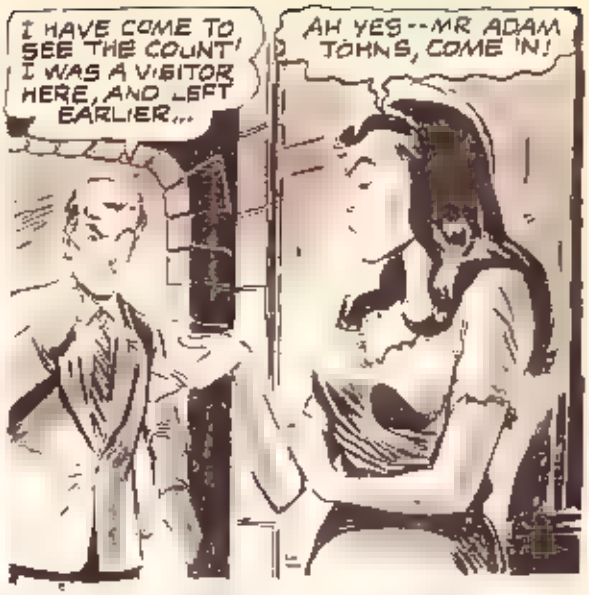
THE HAT BOX. THE HEAD!
WHAT IS HE RAVING ABOUT?

COME: I WILL TAKE YOU TO TOWN
THE HEAD-- IT'S GONE. I MUST GET ANOTHER CAR AND GO BACK TO THE CASTLE!

IN SPITE OF THE OFFICIAL PROTESTS, ADAM SECURED A CAR IN TOWN AND HEADED BACK TO THE CASTLE THE HEAD OF SYR-DARYA SEEMED TO MOCK HIM THROUGH THE GLOOM, AND HE COULD HEAR THE ECHOES OF HER SONG!
I'M PROBABLY A FOOL FOR GOING BACK, BUT I MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

HE COMES, I TELL YOU! THE MORTAL WHO WILL GIVE HIS SOUL FOR MINE I STILL HAVE TIME LEFT!
YOUR DOOM AWAITS YOU SYR-DARYA-- FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OVERDUE

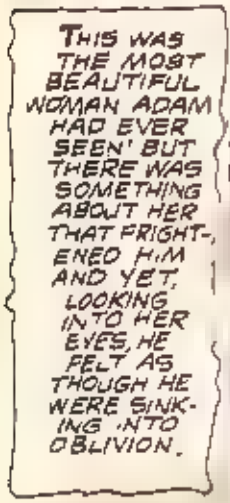
THE MORTAL ARRIVES. I TOLD YOU HE WOULD!
YOU HAVE ONLY A FEW HOURS LEFT SYR-DARYA!


I HAVE COME TO SEE THE COUNT! I WAS A VISITOR HERE, AND LEFT EARLIER...
AH YES--MR ADAM JOHNS, COME IN!

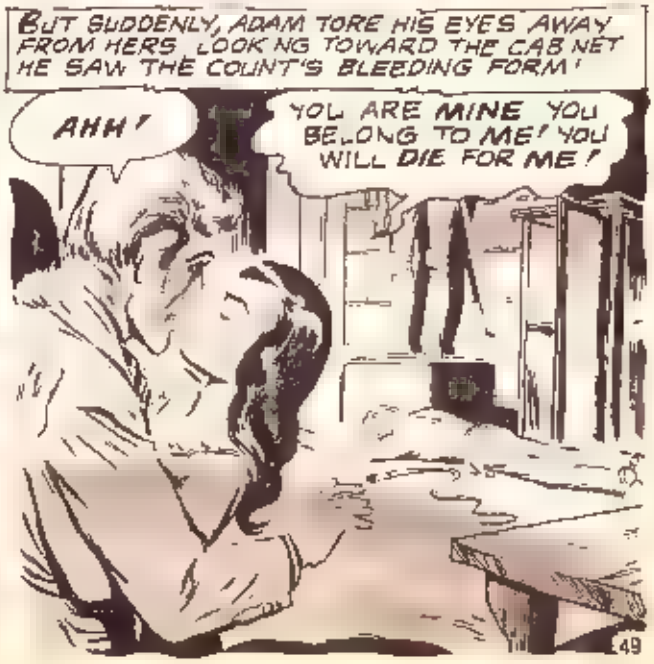
I DON'T BELIEVE I KNOW YOU BUT SOMEHOW YOU LOOK FAMILIAR!
I AM A RELATIVE OF COUNT DARYA'S!

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! BUT-- I KNOW YOU LOOK LIKE THE HEAD OF SYR-DARYA!
PLEASE-- DO NOT SPEAK OF THAT!

COME--I HAVE NOT SEEN AN ATTRACTIVE MAN IN A LONG TIME
BUT THE COUNT WHERE IS HE? I MUST SEE HIM.

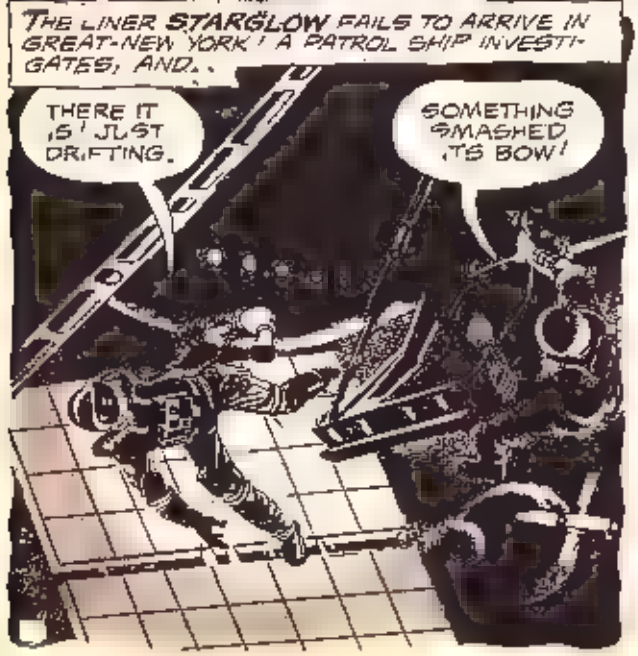

THIS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ADAM HAD EVER SEEN! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT FRIGHTENED HIM AND YET, LOOKING INTO HER EYES, HE FELT AS THOUGH HE WERE SINKING INTO OBLIVION.

FORGET COUNT DARYA! FORGET EVERYTHING BUT ME! WOULD YOU NOT BE WILLING TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR ME?
I-I--

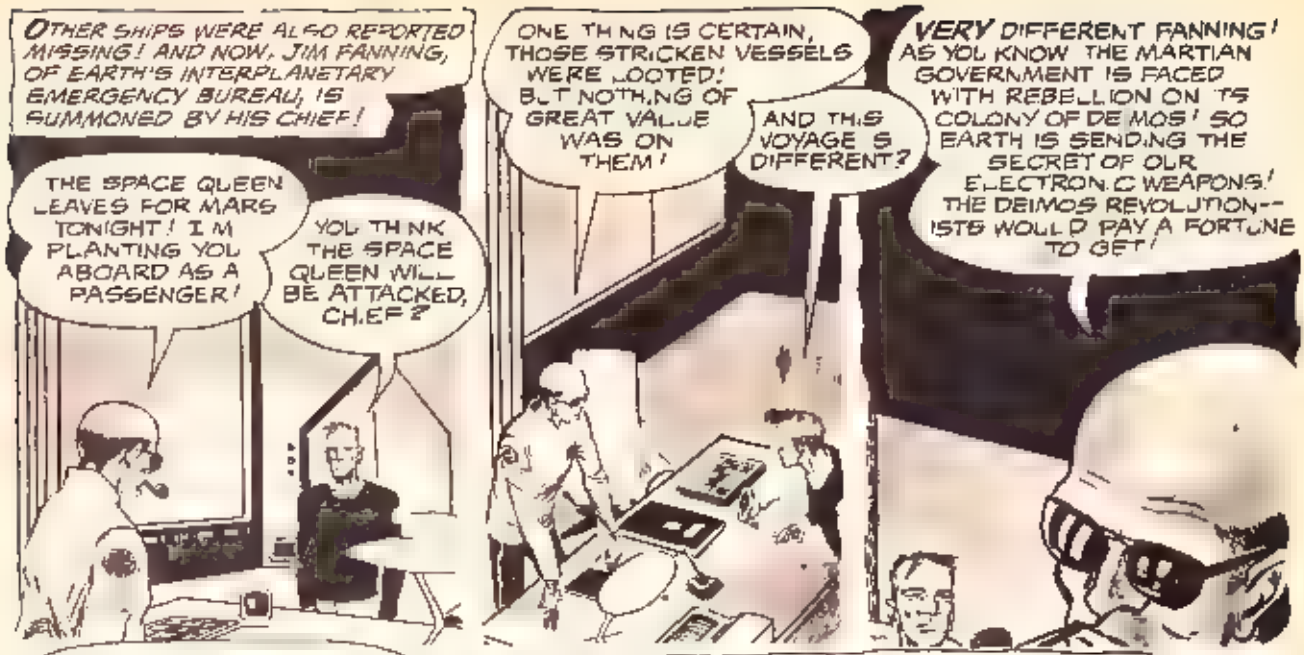

BUT SUDDENLY, ADAM TORE HIS EYES AWAY FROM HERS LOOKING TOWARD THE CABINET HE SAW THE COUNT'S BLEEDING FORM!
AHH!
YOU ARE MINE YOU BELONG TO ME! YOU WILL DIE FOR ME!

YOU ARE SYR-DARYA! YOU LASHED THE COUNT TO DEATH
FOOL! YOU DARE DEFY ME?
THE GREAT TIMUR DARED TIRE OF ME FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO! BUT NO MORTAL MAN SHALL SPURN SYR-DARYA!
YOU WERE MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE ETERNAL TORTURE!
DOG! TAKE THAT!
OWWW!
AS HE FELL, THE CANDELABRUM ADAM KNOCKED OFF THE TABLE BURNED THE DRAPERIES
DA YAH DA DI
YOU WILL SING NO MORE DEATH SONGS, SYR-DARYA! YOUR TIME IS UP! WE HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU WITH US!
ADAM HEARD AN AGONIZED SCREAM, AS THE ROOM WENT UP IN FLAMES!
EEEEAAAHH! I AM DOOMED FOREVER!
YES-- FOREVER!
ADAM JOHNS REACHED HIS CAR AND NOT UNTIL HE WAS MILES AWAY DID HE LOOK BACK. THE CASTLE WAS IN FLAMES. HE SEEMED TO SEE THE SOUL OF SYR-DARYA AND ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED THE DEATH-SONG SHE NOW SANG FOR HERSELF!
THE HEAD OF SYR-DARYA IS DESTROYED AT LAST! NO ONE NEED EVER AGAIN TREMBLE AT HER DEATH SONG AND I WILL NEVER AGAIN SCOFF AT POWERS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! I WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE!
THE END

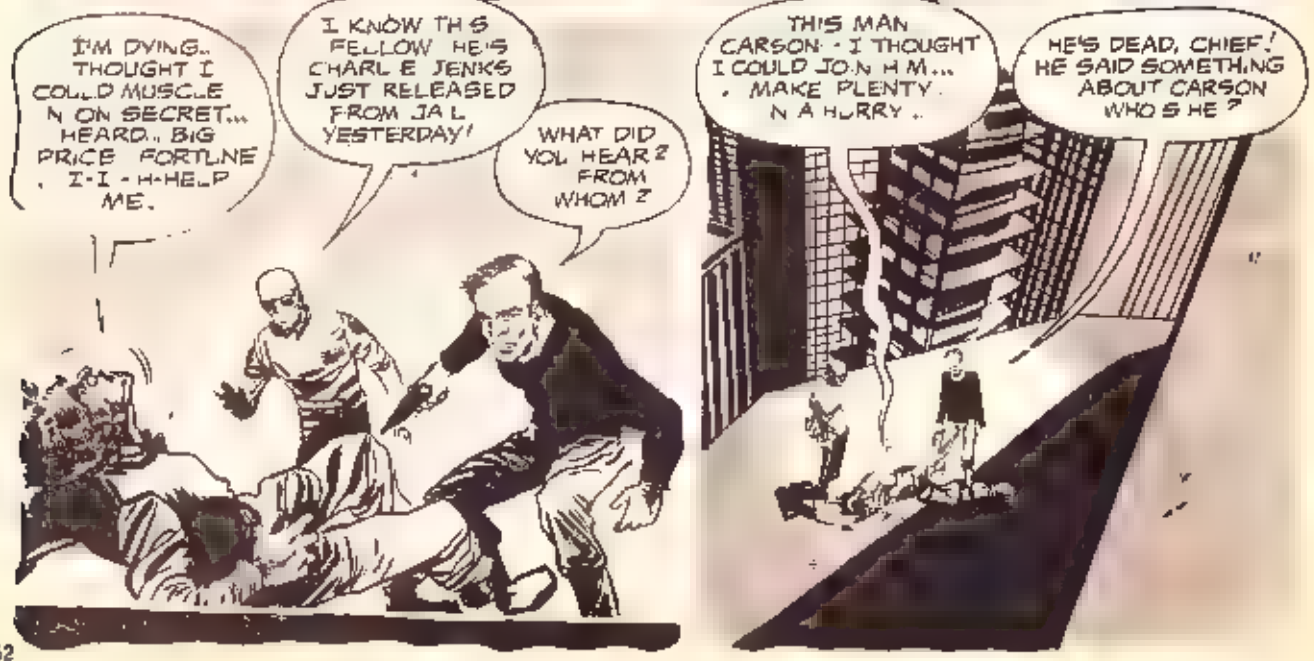
WHAT IS IT, THERE ON THE DARK, BLEAK, UNINHABITED LITTLE WORLD? HOW CAN IT STRIKE OUT AT THE GREAT PASSENGER LINERS PASSING THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY IN SPACE? J.M. FANNING OF EARTH'S INTERPLANETARY EMERGENCY BUREAU FIGHTS DESPERATELY WITH THE UNKNOWN AS HE STRIVES TO SOLVE THE WEIRD --
TERROR ASTEROID
SO YOU'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY -- YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL IT FANNING!


THE LINER STARGLOW FAILS TO ARRIVE IN GREAT-NEW YORK! A PATROL SHIP INVESTIGATES, AND..
THERE IT IS! JUST DRIFTING.
SOMETHING SMASHED ITS BOW!

INSIDE THE SPACE-LINER SHOCK STAGGERS THE INVESTIGATING ASTRONAUTS!
ALL DEAD. ASPHIXIATED!
ALL THE AIR ON THE SHIP RUSHED OUT THROUGH THE BROKEN AIRLOCK!


OTHER SHIPS WERE ALSO REPORTED MISSING! AND NOW, JIM FANNING, OF EARTH'S INTERPLANETARY EMERGENCY BUREAU, IS SUMMONED BY HIS CHIEF!
THE SPACE QUEEN LEAVES FOR MARS TONIGHT! I'M PLANTING YOU ABOARD AS A PASSENGER!
YOU THINK THE SPACE QUEEN WILL BE ATTACKED, CHIEF?
ONE THING IS CERTAIN, THOSE STRICKEN VESSELS WERE LOOTED! BUT NOTHING OF GREAT VALUE WAS ON THEM!
AND THIS VOYAGE IS DIFFERENT?
VERY DIFFERENT FANNING! AS YOU KNOW THE MARTIAN GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH REBELLION ON ITS COLONY OF DEIMOS! SO EARTH IS SENDING THE SECRET OF OUR ELECTRONIC WEAPONS! THE DEIMOS REVOLUTIONISTS WOULD PAY A FORTUNE TO GET!

I THINK SOMEONE HAS GOTTEN WIND OF OUR PLANS. HE SEARCHED THOSE OTHER SHIPS FOR . .
HOLD IT CHIEF! THERE'S-
FANNING LEAPS TO THE WINDOW:
GOT HIM!


I'M DYING.. THOUGHT I COULD MUSCLE IN ON SECRET... HEARD.. BIG PRICE FORTUNE . I-I-H-HELP ME.
I KNOW THIS FELLOW HE'S CHARLIE JENKS JUST RELEASED FROM JAIL YESTERDAY!
WHAT DID YOU HEAR? FROM WHOM?
THIS MAN CARSON - I THOUGHT I COULD JOIN HIM... . MAKE PLENTY. IN A HURRY..
HE'S DEAD, CHIEF! HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT CARSON WHO'S HE?

THERE WAS A MYSTERY ABOUT OLD MAN CARSON HE WAS INVENTING SOMETHING-- NEVER WOULD SAY WHAT! THEN ABOUT A YEAR AGO-- HIS LAB EXPLODED! EVERYTHING WAS WRECKED HIS BODY WASN'T FOUND!

MAYBE HE DID DIE IN THAT EXPLOSION, MAYBE HE DIDN'T!

THE CAPTAIN OF THE *STAR QUEEN* IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL KNOW YOUR IDENTITY DO YOUR BEST

YES SIR

POSING AS A PASSENGER FANNING MEETS SOME OF THE *STAR QUEEN'S* PASSENGERS. CAPTAIN WILKS INTRODUCES HIM.

AND THIS IS MISS ANNE ART

YOUNG MAN, I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU.

MY PLEASURE MISS ART!

AND THERE IS ARTHUR JEROME WEALTHY INTERPLANETARY TRAVELER!

NICE GROUP OF PASSENGERS THIS VOYAGE, FANNING! I SAY THERE ARE TWO WHO'VE BEEN SECLUDED ALL THIS TIME!

HELLO FRIENDS WE'RE JEROME AND J.M. FANNING!

WE'RE PHILLIP AND BRENDA CARSON TWINS, TWINS. NINETEEN YEARS OLD

CARSON! WHA-Z

AS SOON AS HE CAN MANAGE IT, FANNING IS CLOSETED WITH CAPTAIN WILKS AND .

THAT DYING THUG MENTIONED THE NAME CARSON! WHO ARE THESE CARSON TWINS, CAPTAIN WILKS?

I DUNNO BUT BY THE STARWAYS, I'LL SOON FIND OUT! I'LL SEND A HELIOGRAM TO THE INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE BUREAU!

AND FROM GREAT-NEW YORK THE HELIOGRAM ANSWER COMES!

PHILIP AND BRENDA ARE CHILDREN OF PROFESSOR CARSON WHO PERHAPS DIED IN LABORATORY EXPLOSION HOWEVER, HE IS STILL LISTED MISSING!

NOW THE STAR QUEEN IS PASSING ASTEROID 9, A BLEAK UNINHABITED LITTLE WORLD WHIRLING IN THE ASTEROID BELT BETWEEN EARTH AND MARS...
THOSE SPACE LINERS WERE ATTACKED JUST ABOUT HERE! WONDER IF THE RAIDERS STRIKE FROM ASTEROID ?
AND AS J M PONDERS THE POSSIBILITIES.
THE CARSON TWINS! THEIR FATHER WAS INVENTING SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! COULD IT BE THAT ALL THREE OF THEM ARE IN ON THIS DIABOLICAL BUSINESS TOGETHER ?
OH, PHIL! I'M SO FRIGHTENED. DO YOU THINK WE CAN DO IT ?
YEB, BUT WE'RE NOT THERE YET! WE'LL BE CLOSER IN A FEW HOURS!
CLOSER TO WHAT ?
THEN, IN ANOTHER INSTANT THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE SHADOWS...
"CAN WE DO IT ?" SHE ASKED HIM! DO WHAT ? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO ?
THEN, SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
WHA ?!
FANNING WAS TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BUT HE HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO DUCK AS THE FLASH OF THE RAY-GUN BARELY MISSED HIS HEAD!
AND THEN
UGH
... MY HEAD!

AS FANNING SCRAMBLES TO HIS FEET HE HEARS A DISTANT SOUND OF HISSING AIR AND A TURMOIL OF SHOUTS!
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENED? HEAR THAT AIR? SOMEBODY'S LEAVING THE SHIP—OUT THE AIR LOCK!
ARE THE CARSON TWINS ESCAPING?
PHILIP CARSON TRIED TO KILL ME HE?
HE MUST HAVE WORKED THE AIR-LOCK WRONG. DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET HIS SPACE-HELMET ON!
GRUESOME PATHETIC LITTLE SATELLITE ASPHIXIATED IN THE AIRLESS VACUUM OF SPACE, HELD BY THE STAR QUEEN'S GRAVITY PULL, THE BODY IS SLOWLY CIRCLING THE SHIP!
LOOK IT'S BRENDA CARSON! --THE ESCAPING AIR FROM THE ESCAPE-PORT PULLED HER OUT TOO SOON!
WHERE'S PHILIP CARSON? SEARCH THE SHIP! FIND HIM!
MAYBE HE'S STILL IN THE ESCAPE-PORT! IT'S HISSING AGAIN!
THEN, SUDDENLY
THERE HE GOES!--HEADING FOR ASTEROID 9!
FANNING DONS AN EMERGENCY POWERED SPACE SUIT, AND
NOW IF ONLY I CAN KEEP HIM IN SIGHT...
BUT THE ESCAPING FIGURE IS ALREADY LOST IN THE STARFIELD! FANNING PLUNGES ON, AND AT LAST,
LUCK'S WITH ME! THERE HE GOES!

THERE IS ATMOSPHERE AND GRAVITY SIMILAR TO EARTH'S ON THE LITTLE WORLD! AS HE LANDS, FANNING TOSSES OFF HIS HELMET, AND

NOW I'LL GET HIM!

WHY-- WHY, IT'S BRENDA!

JIM FANNING! OHH!

IT HAD BEEN PHILIP CARSON WHO HAD BEEN ASPHIXATED! THE GIRL HAD PLUNGED ON HERE, TRYING TO CARRY OUT THEIR DESPERATE PLAN!

WE-- WE THOUGHT FATHER WASN'T KILLED BY HIS LABORATORY EXPLOSION! --THAT HE WAS ABDUCTED, AND HIS INVENTION STOLEN!

THEN IT WASN'T PHILIP WHO ATTACKED ME ON THE STAR QUEEN!

BY WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO SPACE-LINERS, IT SEEMS FATHER'S INVENTION'S BEING OPERATED FROM HERE! HE WOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT SO WE-

LOOK THERE'S A LIGHT GLOW OUT THERE

THE CARSON TWINS HAD TAKEN THE STAR QUEEN, PLANNING TO COME TO ASTEROID 9 IN SEARCH OF THEIR FATHER!

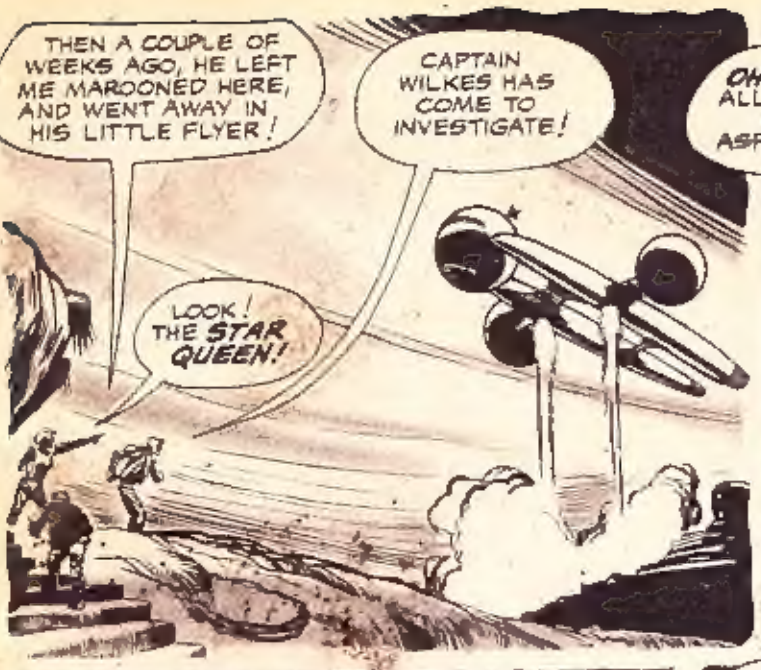
THERE HE IS! FATHER

BRENDA!

I-I HAD JUST PERFECTED MY LONG-RANGE, INVISIBLE FLASH, SPACE-GUN! I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO THE EARTH-GOVERNMENT! HE BLEW UP MY LABORATORY - BROUGHT ME AND MY GUN HERE. HE CALLS HIMSELF THE LONE WOLF!

I'VE HEARD OF HIM

HE'S BEEN ATTACKING SHIPS WITH MY INVISIBLE FLASH, SEARCHING FOR SOME BIG TREASURE! BUT NOW THE ELECTRONIC CHARGE IS EXHAUSTED. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO RELOAD IT AND I WON'T! HE'S BEEN STARVING AND TORTURING ME!


THEN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, HE LEFT ME MAROONED HERE, AND WENT AWAY IN HIS LITTLE FLYER!
CAPTAIN WILKES HAS COME TO INVESTIGATE!
LOOK! THE STAR QUEEN!

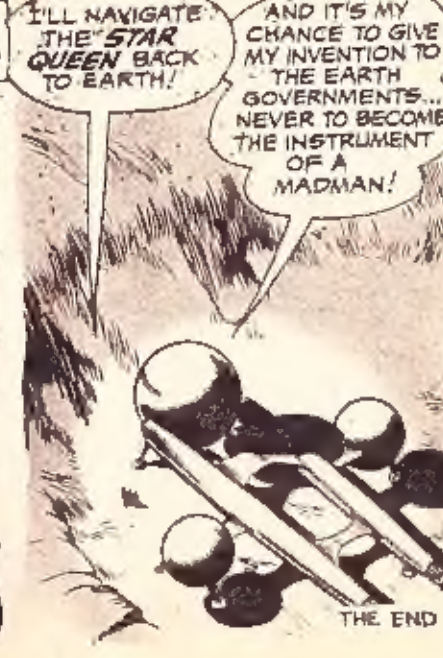
WHILE ON BOARD ALL HANDS ARE DEAD...
OHH! DEAD! ALL OF THEM DEAD! ASPHIXATED!
OUT IN SPACE SOMEONE ON BOARD MUST HAVE OPENED THE PORTS LETTING ALL THE SHIP'S AIR OUT!

A DESPERATE, EVIL PERSON PROTECTED HIMSELF BY WEARING A SPACE-SUIT, AND HID ON BOARD, DETERMINED TO GET THE SHIP'S TREASURE! HE HAD NOW BROUGHT THE SHIP OF THE DEAD TO ASTEROID 9!
WITH THE INVISIBLE-FLASH SPACE-GUN USELESS, HE HAD TO DO IT THIS WAY!
-OHH! LOOK OUT!

SO IT'S ARTHUR JEROME-- THE INTERPLANETARY TRAVELER! TOO BAD I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME!
THIS TIME I'LL FINISH YOU!

A DESPERATE LIFE-OR DEATH STRUGGLE!
NO, YOU DON'T!

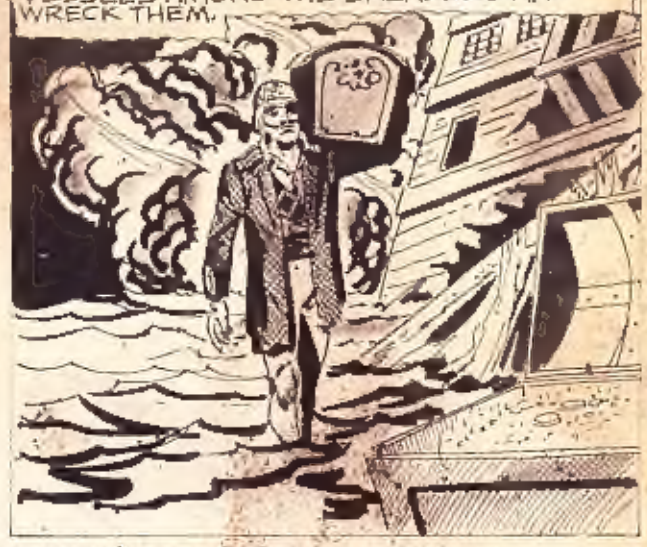
AS THEY FALL, ROLLING ON THE GROUND, JEROME BREAKS AWAY AND MAKES A RUN FOR IT!
AA IEEE!
GOT HIM!


I'LL NAVIGATE THE STAR QUEEN BACK TO EARTH!
AND IT'S MY CHANCE TO GIVE MY INVENTION TO THE EARTH GOVERNMENTS... NEVER TO BECOME THE INSTRUMENT OF A MADMAN!
THE END

GHOSTS THAT WALK FOREVER

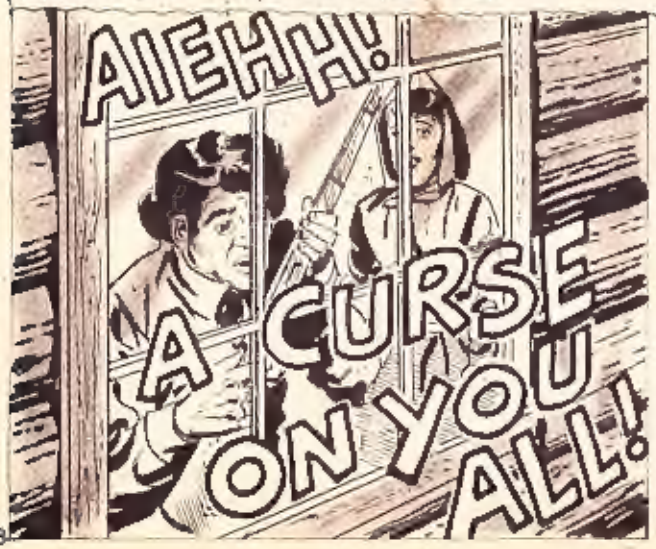
HARRY MAIN WAS HIS NAME WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, AND NO BLACKER A MAN DID LIVE! HE RAVAGED THE NEW ENGLAND COAST WITH HIS ACTS OF PIRACY!

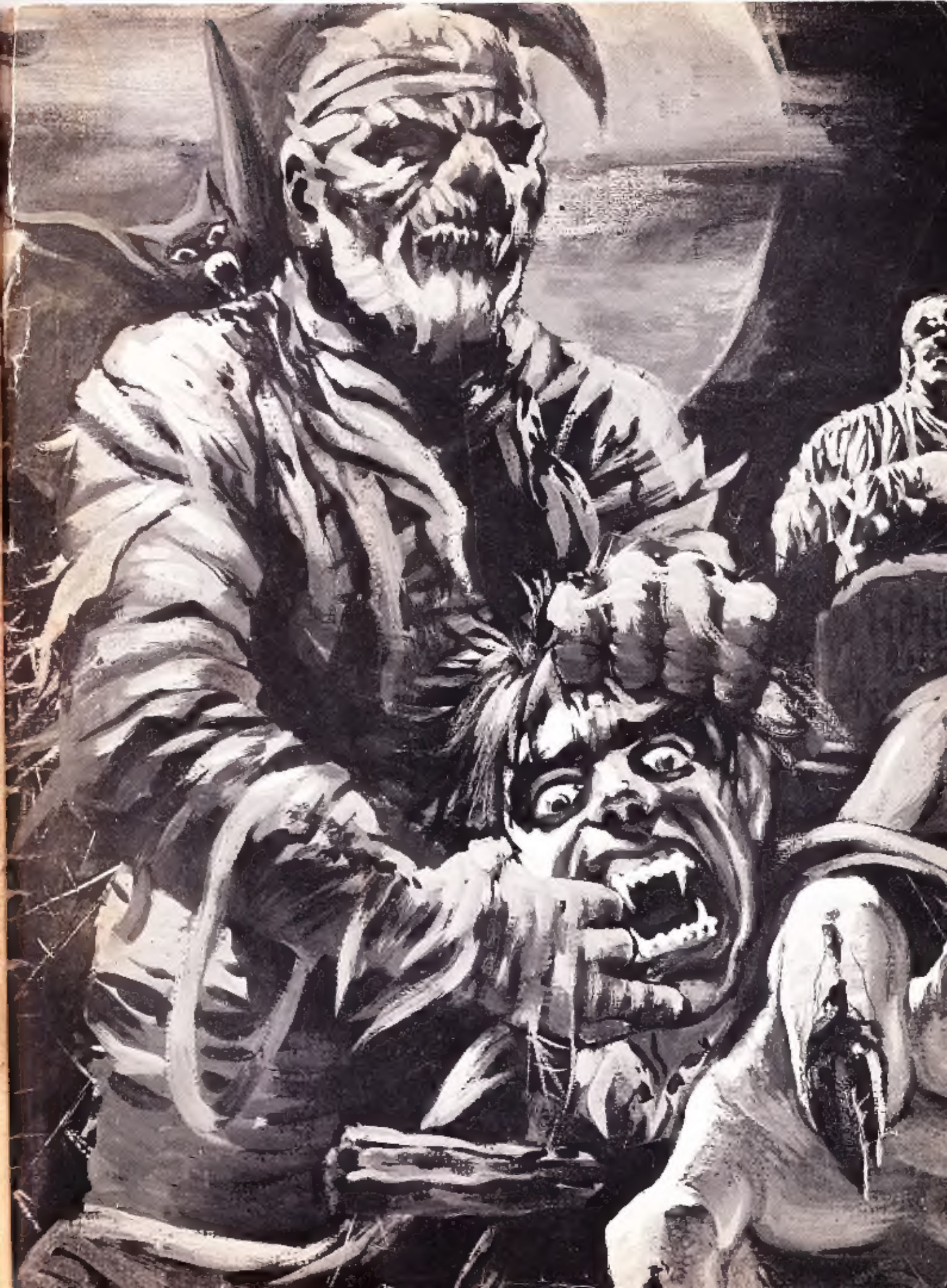
THEN, MAIN TURNED TO BEING A WRECKER. HE BUILT FIRES ON THE SANDS TO DECOY VESSELS AMONG THE BREAKERS AND WRECK THEM.



BUT, ONE DAY, THE MURDERER WAS FINALLY CAUGHT AND CHAINED ON THE BEACH.

THAT NIGHT, A RIPPING STORM HIT THE NEW ENGLAND COAST. THE PEOPLE FROZE IN THEIR HOMES WHEN THEY HEARD MAIN'S SHOUTING RISE ABOVE, THE HOWLING GALE



EVEN TODAY THERE ARE NEW ENGLANDERS WHO STILL CLAIM TO SEE HARRY MAIN'S GHOST WALKING THE SHORE... AND WHEN HE WALKS A STORM RAGES!

THE END